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# ottawa jewish bulletin



June 18, 2007

volume 71, no. 16

tammuz 2, 5767

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co. Ltd. • 21 Nadeau Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9 • Publisher: Mitchell Bellman • Editor: Barry Fishman \$2.00

## Wounded Israeli soldiers inspire during Ottawa visit

By Alexander Baker

They look like ordinary 20-something Israelis, but there is a depth in their eyes and a confidence in the way they tell their tales that makes the wounded Israeli soldiers who came to Ottawa truly inspirational.

A group of 10 soldiers – some wounded in last summer's war with Lebanon; others from suicide bomb attacks or special operations as far back as 1968, even a veteran of the Yom Kippur War – stopped in Ottawa during a tour of Ontario. They represent Beit Haiochem, an organization that helps injured and disabled soldiers rehabilitate through mental and physical therapy, sports and cultural activities.

The soldiers, who spent just half a day in Ottawa, spoke briefly at the

SJCC, took a tour of Parliament Hill and spent the evening in the Byward Market. Still, they made an impression on the 50 or so seniors, Jewish veterans and others who attended.

"I was in Lebanon last summer and an anti-tank missile hit my APC [armoured personnel carrier]," said Haran Yaffe, a 25-year-old from northern Israel. "I was in a coma for 10 days and they said I'd never be able to walk or move my arms."

Today, though, Yaffe is in good health, besides the fact he has no stomach muscles and is still regaining the dexterity in his hands. He never hesitated when describing why he volunteered to fight in Lebanon last summer, rather than waiting to be sent in.

(Continued on page 2)

## Barbara Farber confirmed as UIA Federations president

By Alexander Baker

Barbara Farber, one of the Ottawa Jewish community's most eminent and award-winning volunteers, is now officially president of the United Israel Appeal Federation of Canada. She took over from Stanley Plotnick, who had been showing Farber the ropes since she was named president-elect in July 2006.

Farber is not only the first president of

(Continued on page 5)



## New Federation chair promises to engage youth and unaffiliated

By Barry Fishman

At the Jewish Federation of Ottawa AGM on June 6, newly installed Chair Jonathan Freedman promised to find ways to engage the youth of the community and to support agencies, synagogues and other organizations as they face the challenge of growing the Jewish community and securing the future of the next generation.

"If we want to engage young people, we need to understand and reflect what is important to them,"

he said. "We need to relearn the lessons of the Torah about being environmentally conscious and show young people that we care about their future and their values."

As a child, Freedman said he believed giving money was the best way to help others and, therefore, the philanthropy of the Freedman side of the family had a greater impact on the community. As he grew up, he learned differently.

"While the Freedman family philanthropy was very important, it

is my Zeid Schreiber's legacy of teaching Bar Mitzvah lessons, helping people keep kosher and working with people during all life cycles that has a more lasting impact," he said. "We must remember that a successful Jewish community takes money, volunteers, passion, vision, commitment, compassion. All people make important contributions to the fabric of community and are important elements of our success."

Freedman said the community

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## Federation roll changed over the past 10 years

(Continued from page 1)  
must be far more open and more welcoming to the unaffiliated. He wants to see Jewish schools become centres of excellence.

Outgoing Chair Ron Prehogan noted the theme of his two-year term was achieving Jewish continuity. As individuals we must make the case for being Jewish to both ourselves and family members.

"Perhaps the reason why so many of our children choose to marry outside the faith is that we have not done a good job of making the Jewish case to ourselves, let alone to them," he said.

Prehogan said we need to find commonality with the younger generation by making Judaism relevant and meaningful to them. One such way is through social justice and the environment.

"Al Gore was not the first to make the environment a priority,"

he said. "The Jewish people were starting thousands of years ago with the concept of *tikkum olam* – repairing the world."

In his address, Mitchell Bellman, president and CEO of the Federation, noted how, over the past 10 years, the role of the Federation has changed. Now, he said, Jewish organizations are not only competing for scarce resources among themselves, but are in competition with non-Jewish organizations.

"Our problem is that we are loath to ever acknowledge that an agency or program is no longer competitive. If our goal is truly to reach more Jews and to engage a younger generation in our community, we need to accept the wisdom of the Jewish market and recognize and accept the forces of change," he said. "We need to aggressively chase that market rather than preserve traditional ways of doing



Incoming Chair Jonathan Freedman (right) thanks Ron Prehogan for his two years of dedicated service to the community as chair of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

business that are no longer relevant recipients to the new Jewish consumer."

At the AGM, community awards were given out to three worthy

recipients.

An emotional Roger Greenberg received the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, the high-

est individual award bestowed by the Ottawa Jewish community. The award, named after his late father, has a special meaning for him.

"It is doubly rewarding to win an award named after one's father. I know that both of my parents would be very proud of me and indeed of all my siblings for what we have accomplished in our lives," Greenberg said. "I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of so many other community leaders who have been honoured with this award."

The Freiman Family Young Leadership award, given to a person under 40 who demonstrates exceptional leadership, was presented to Mitchell Miller.

Veteran Sam Ages received the Shem Tov award for outstanding volunteer work in the community.

*Excerpts from Jonathan Freedman's inaugural address can be found on page 6.*

## Soldiers feel raw, emotional need to fight for Israel

(Continued from page 1)

"I volunteered for war because my mom and dad live up north," he said. "I did what any good Jewish boy would do and went to defend my mother's home."

Yaffe's story is hardly unique. The Israelis told their tales, one by one, each describing the raw, emotional need to fight for Israel that drew them to enlist. While most Jewish Israelis must serve in the military, some of these wounded soldiers made the choice themselves, putting their lives on hold.

Gur Nedzvestsky is one of

them. A native of Russia, he immigrated to Jerusalem with his parents in 1990, though they could not make a living and were forced to move to London in 2002. However, Gur said they found themselves listening to the radio every night for news from Israel during the Second Intifada.

"I wanted to get back to Israel to join the army, even though I didn't have to fight because I'm an only son," he said. "We thought it's better to live a difficult life in Israel than an easier life out of it."

Nedzvestsky was one of

the first Israelis sent into Lebanon last summer on a special operation, ahead of the larger ground force. The mission was to blow up a house in a village near the border where they knew Hezbollah rockets were stored. After Nedzvestsky fired the missile and blew up the house, his hiding spot was sprayed with bullets, tearing through his jaw, stomach and thigh. After crawling 15 metres, bleeding and delirious, a medic kept him alive for 45 minutes before a helicopter could extract him. "Everything they had they

shot at us – other soldiers could see us from the Israeli border with binoculars. They told us they counted 60 rockets fired at us," he said. "Afterwards, the medic told me he saw rockets go just above and below the chopper. It was that close."

Nedzvestsky, too, is mostly recovered, except for a scar where the bullet broke his jaw and exited just under his left ear. "The human body is an amazing thing – rockets, explosives ... only God can tell when it's time to die."

By the way, Nedzvestsky is turning 22 this month.

The inspirational stories do not end there. Joseph Haddad, a 22-year-old Israeli Arab Christian affectionately called "Yossi," said he wanted nothing more than to join the IDF and fight for his country.

"I'm an Arab and a Christian, but I have an Israeli ID. Why shouldn't I go to the

army, too, and fight for Israel?"

Haddad was hit by an anti-tank missile in Lebanon last summer, and said he felt the survivor guilt so often endured by wounded soldiers.

"I don't know if I'm lucky or not – lucky to be alive or unlucky because when I woke up in the hospital, my soldiers were dead," he said.

"I asked myself why I didn't go with them, why am I still here? Maybe the reason is to be here, to speak to you, I carry my friends in my heart."

Despite the emotion and the detail with which the men described their life-changing experiences, they were in good spirits, singing, laughing and ribbing each other. Each one who got up to speak referred to their unit as the best, drawing whoops and sarcastic rebuttals. They did, though, acknowledge the

seriousness of it all.

"Every day we return to the same spot, lying on the ground, bleeding, and there's no white light," said Yaffe. "It happens to all of us, but what the heck, we live for today. It's a bummer, but we're alive. The more you talk, it gets easier."

"And," piped in Haddad, "my psychiatrist said it's important to share with other people!"

In doing so, Ottawans got to know a little more about people who sacrificed their lives and livelihoods for Israel. It was a touching, emotional experience, but those soldiers' fight is hardly over.

"I started recording my first album before the war last year," said Yaffe. "Hopefully, by the end of the year, I'll finish it. I can't play guitar as good as I used to, but it's a long process and I'll get there!"

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# WALKATHON

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## Walkathon returns: 'spirit of the walk of old is back'

By Francie Greenspoon

Three hundred participants, 125 volunteers and sunshine all contributed to the success of this year's Walkathon.

Spirits were high as Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, enthusiastically

shouted to an energized crowd corralled behind a red ribbon he was about to cut to officially launch the 2007 Walkathon.

"Are you ready to walk, proud, strong and together?" he asked.

With a resounding "yes,"

the *Chariots of Fire* theme blaring through speakers and a quick snip of the scissors cutting the ribbon, the walk began at 9:40 am on June 3.

Bicycles of all shapes and sizes, parents pushing strollers and pulling wagons with young children in tow, roller-bladers, walkers, runners and seniors guided in wheelchairs embarked on the 9K route down Broadview Avenue in support of the annual community event.

This year's walk was carefully planned to maximize the enjoyment of its participants. As a lead-up to the day, the first-ever free pre-walk clinic was organized and 20 people took advantage of this great opportunity to get into shape.

On the walk, participants were greeted at each of the eight designated checkpoints by volunteers who encouraged and directed them, offered thirst-quenching beverages and provided stickers to indicate they made it to the checkpoint. The Westboro beach and Island Park checkpoint generated tremendous *ruach* to spur participants onwards.

"We were really thrilled with what happened at the



Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada, cuts the ribbon to inaugurate Walkathon 2007, shouting, "Are you ready to walk?" With a resounding "yes," they were off.

(Photo: Peter and Marie Rachel Waisser)

walk," says Faye Goldman, who co-chaired the event with husband Michael Landau.

"We worked very hard to bring back the Walkathon of old, with a strong community emphasis and a healthier approach. I believe we succeeded. Everyone enjoyed the longer, beautiful, well-organized route and healthy food choices at the end.

"We would love to see more people turn out next year and plan to build on our success."

Twelve-year-old Ben Singer jogged the full 9K with a smile on his face, while six-year-old Amanda McCarthy rode her tricycle from start to finish, alongside her mother Eileen, who walked.

Ottawa newcomer Paul Sheffrin says, "I've settled in amazingly quickly thanks to the really warm welcome I have received from the Jewish community here. Participating in and raising money for the Walkathon was my way of saying thank you."

"I really enjoy walking and knew I would have fun."

With perfect weather and great walking companions, I certainly wasn't disappointed."

When participants returned to the community campus, there was a buzz in the air that had nothing to do with menacing insects. People chatted and ate and children enjoyed road hockey, an obstacle course and blowing bubbles.

The Walkathon has had its share of ups and downs since it began in Ottawa.

In its heyday, more than 700 people from all segments of the Jewish community came out to walk and lend their support to the event.

Over the years, the walk became significantly shorter and the fun fair became an integral focus of the program. Walkathon eventually morphed into the Aviv Festival, which was designed to showcase Jewish culture with a walk attached to it.

Landau and Goldman's aim was to return the walk to its original roots, focusing on the walk itself. If the camaraderie and solidarity apparent on June 3 are any indication, the spirit of the walk of old is back.

Now, the goal is to get more community members involved and out to walk the walk next year!



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## Temple Israel shines at National Bible Contest

By Annette Paquin

For the 11th consecutive year, Temple Israel Religious School sent a qualifying team of Grade 5 and 6 students to the National Bible Contest. This year, the contest challenged students in their knowledge of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The students started studying in September under the guidance of their teacher and mentor, Sheli Braun, who teaches not only the words of Torah but the spirit of Torah.

In February, students across Canada wrote a qualifying exam to determine who continued on to the National level.

Temple Israel Religious School had seven students qualify to compete in Montreal. After two rounds of high-pressure examinations, two of the Temple students, Shira Gertsman and Rebecca Peng, reached the semi-finals, consisting of the top 10 students nationally in their age and school division. Rebecca placed third overall, a tremendous achievement.

In addition to the excitement of learning Torah, participation in this competition gives Temple Israel School students the opportunity to meet and socialize with other Jewish students from all different backgrounds. Participating teams come

from as far west as Victoria, and as far east as Montreal. The Grade 5 and 6 students participate in a variety of activities between examinations enabling them to meet others and continue to be part of the event, though they may have been eliminated in early rounds.

This was the seventh time Temple Israel students placed in the top three at the National level.

In the past, the school fielded both a Grade 5/6 team and a Grade 7/8 team. Next year, in addition to the Grade 5/6 team, Temple looks forward to once again having students from all four grades involved in this program.

## 'Opportunity of a lifetime'

the organization from Ottawa, she is the first from outside Montreal or Toronto.

"The feeling is pretty widespread that because I'm the first president from outside the major cities, there's a hope some of the regional Federations and smaller communities will get some of their great ideas and initiatives heard," she says. "I'd like to meet with them so everyone is considered as important as the large Federations from the big cities."

Her second priority, Farber says, will be to engage young Jewish community leaders.

"We need to support the young leadership across Canada, financially and otherwise, so there is a new generation of leaders who can step up to the plate when it's their turn," she says.

The UIAFC is an umbrella organization representing 10 Jewish Federations and 40 regional communities across Canada. Its primary responsibility is allocating fundraising dollars to support the needs of both Canada and Israel.

As president, Farber will be UIAFC's main spokesperson, as well as responsible for overseeing expenditures, leading the board of directors

and its executive committee and maintaining relationships with Federations and Jewish communities across Canada.

In order to accomplish her first priority of meeting with Jewish community leaders, she will have to balance those duties with what is likely to be a hectic, cross-country travel schedule.

Farber is the organization's second female president and has been involved with the UIAFC for more than 12 years, serving on the executive committee as vice-

president administration and vice-president planning and priorities.

"This is an opportunity of

a lifetime – it's fantastic,

exciting, exhilarating, but

daunting," she says. "Everybody gets into something

because they want to make a

difference. It's a cliché, but

hopefully I can do that."

Farber is a past president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, the predecessor of the Ottawa Jewish Federation. – With files from Benita Baker, OJB

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## Highlights from new chair's inaugural speech

As I look upon the names of the previous presidents of the Vaad and our first chair of the Federation I realize that I follow in the footsteps of some of the giants of our community ... one of them in particular was a very special leader who showed a type of leadership that I think is critical to the juncture in which we find ourselves at the beginning of my term.

That person is the late Gilbert Greenberg.

My family's friendship with Gilbert and his family started primarily when we moved to Israel in 1970 and became one of his son Michael's alternative families during his period in the Israeli army. I was only a very young teenager at the time, but Gilbert always took the time to listen to me, take me seriously, and became one of my mentors in life and one of my role models.

It is my fervent hope I will be able to bring some of Gilbert's passion, compassion and ability to listen and mentor to my term as chair.

I have deep roots on both sides of my family in the Ottawa community. On my father's Freedman side, we can trace our roots back in Ottawa to around 1891. I have been blessed that my great-grandfather Jacob found Ottawa a place where he could gain much financial success. I am proud that on this side of the family we have been able to lead in philanthropy in this city and specifically



### Federation Report

Jonathan Freedman  
Chair

in the Jewish community.

On my mother's side, my grandparents came to Ottawa in 1935 when my grandfather was able to secure a position as a shochet and as the cantor of the old James Street Synagogue.

As a young child, I always thought money was more important and felt, therefore, the Freedman side of my family had left a bigger imprint on the Jewish community than my Schreiber grandparents. However, as I get more and more involved in the community, I meet more people whose Jewish life was impacted by the work of my Zeidi Schreiber. While the Freedman family philanthropy was very important, it is my Zeidi Schreiber's legacy of teaching Bar Mitzvah lessons, helping people keep kosher and working with people during all life cycles that has a more lasting impact.

We must remember that a successful Jewish community takes money, volunteers, passion, vision, commitment, compassion and people make important contributions to the fabric of community and

are important elements of our success.

We have achieved a great deal in the last several years in our community. We have restructured our constitution and successfully transformed into a federation, and we owe a large thanks to Ron Prehogan for guiding us through that period of change.

In February, we held a two-day symposium to try to sit and look at the future of our community. I think at this symposium we were forced to face the tough realities and the challenges facing any Jewish community in North America today.

*We need our schools to be centres of excellence.  
We need to address the critical issue of the affordability of Jewish day school.  
We need to change the way we operate so we are relevant to young people.*

We concluded we must find a way to reengage our youth in its Jewish heritage. We have had some early successes already coming out of the symposium, but the work is far from finished.

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We concluded we must find a way to reengage our youth in its Jewish heritage. We have had some early successes already coming out of the symposium, but the work is far from finished.

We must make a supreme effort to embrace and reengage our unaffiliated ... It is only when we as the community take this message into our heart will we be successful in reaching out to our brethren and inspiring them to engage with our Jewish community.

school. We need to change the way we operate so we are relevant to young people.

At the symposium, one of the speakers scolded us for serving food on styrofoam plates. The lesson was clear. If we want to engage young people, we need to understand and reflect what is important to them. We need to relearn the lessons of the Torah about being environmentally conscious and show young people we care about their future and their values.

In my view, the role of the Federation is to inspire each and every one of you and each and all of our affiliated agencies, synagogues and other organizations in our community to join together in this challenge of growing our Jewish community and securing the future of the next generation in Jewish life.

We must be far more open as a community. We have just celebrated Shavuot, and read the story of Ruth. The lesson we are taught is that once one joins our people, they are one of us. We cannot and must not treat them differently than those born Jewish. If it was good enough for King David, it is good enough for me.

We must make a supreme effort to embrace and reengage our unaffiliated ... It is only when we as the community take this message into our heart will we be successful in reaching out to our brethren and inspiring them to engage with our Jewish community.

## Demographics: a Jewish time bomb

Two disturbing demographic facts came to light recently, one relating to the Jewish population in Jerusalem, the other concerning the Jewish population in Ottawa. One could call it a tale of two cities, or two capitals, but there the resemblance would end.

On the one hand, one cannot be comforted by the harsh reality, by the year 2020, the city of Jerusalem will be inhabited by a majority of Muslims due to the low Jewish birth rate and the high cost of living.

On the other hand, one can only be disturbed by the continuing reduction of students in the Ottawa day schools, a factor that cannot be simply attributed to parental indifference. Indeed, a great deal of concern should be expressed regarding the fewer children available to attend day schools in Ottawa. I remember not so long ago that Hillel Academy had some 506 students. Today, there are only 320 pupils there.

Are the Jewish people reproducing enough to surpass zero population growth? With the exception of the Haredi and Hasidic families in our community and in Israel, we are not reproducing to the extent necessary to propagate our people. When we speak of continuity, we must leave aside the 'normal' definitions of identity and heritage. We must go back to basics.

Jewish continuity is ensured by more



### From the pulpit

Rabbi  
Howard Finkelstein  
Beth Shalom West

Jewish children, pure and simple. The pursuit of careers, while laudatory and encouraging, and the chasing after the American (Canadian) dream, in many ways affects the possibility of bringing more children into the world. The infertile couple must wonder at those who can reproduce, as to why they do not.

I fear for the future of the Jewish community both in Ottawa and Jerusalem. In a purely unscientific observation, I see an aging population here, and I wonder what the future will be like in this city demographically in 10 years. With an ever-growing exodus of Ottawa Jews to greener pastures in Toronto and elsewhere, what are we doing to encourage the growth of families in Ottawa, and the relocation of families here? I have no doubts these same thoughts or similar ones are expressed in Jerusalem by concerned citizens.

I shudder at the memory of a statement

made by Yasser Arafat as to why he felt the Palestinians would one day overcome the Israelis. He believed the secret weapon of the Palestinians was the expectant mother – one day, the Palestinians would simply outnumber the Jews.

While we do not necessarily have to worry about the effect of Palestinian overpopulation, we do have to be concerned

about the future of our community and its institutions in regard to their numbers. Our belief in the message of the Torah can only be preserved in the future if we have the numbers to sustain it. The beauty of a baby and the love of a child make that message come to life.

"Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and dominate it." (Genesis 1)



Owned by The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co. Ltd., 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, K2A 1R9. Tel: (613) 798-4696. Fax: (613) 798-4730. Email: bulletin@ottawa.ca. Published 19 times a year. © copyright June 18, 2007.

PUBLISHER: The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin Publishing Co. Ltd. EDITOR: Barry Fishman  
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Brenda Van Vliet BUSINESS MANAGER: Rhode Salove-Miller STAFF REPORTER: Alexander Baker  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Seymour Diner, chair, Anna Blusky, Stephen Bindman, Mark Buckson, Jack Cramer, Olane Koven, Louise Radich, Michael Wollock

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Local subscription \$30.00. Out-of-town \$36.00. International \$50.00. \$2.00 per issue.  
We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs.

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Canada

## Being a family means listening to controversial views

You attend a symposium on the future of the Ottawa Jewish community and the guest speakers describe us as one big *mishpacha* (family). They are amazed, even astonished our community seems to get along so well – Ultra-Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Egalitarian Conservative, Reconstructionist, secular, all together and talking to each other.

Isn't that the way it's supposed to be?

We at the *Bulletin* think so. That's why, on occasion, you will see stories many of us disagree with. Not only does it make the paper livelier, it is important we talk to each other through the paper and debate controversial issues affecting our community and its constituents.

Case in point: Readers took exception to the story we ran last month on two Jewish women who are fighting the Canadian government's use of security certificates. Letter-writers were particularly incensed the women drew an analogy between the Holocaust and the security certificates that have affected Muslims living in Canada.

I have to admit, when I read the original story, I was somewhat taken aback and planned to write a column explaining why I disagreed with their view.

Then our readers weighed in – stressing, rightfully, that to compare the Holocaust with what is happening in Canada is both odious and factually wrong.



**Editor**

**Barry Fishman**

Despite my misgivings, I chose to run the story. Why? Two reasons.

A discussion about the Canadian government putting foreign nationals in jail for years without being charged, not allowing them to see the evidence against them and deporting them to countries that practise torture is a discussion worth having. Officially, Canada condemns torture, yet we seem willing to deport people to countries that do not.

The tough question facing Canada and other countries in the West is how far a liberal democracy can go to protect itself from the threat of terrorism while not destroying the values and rights we cherish. In a February 2007 decision, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled security certificates violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They gave the government one year to change the law. Clearly, there are valid concerns about the security certificate process.

Perhaps even more importantly to us as a community is the idea of *mishpacha*. If we

really want the Ottawa Jewish community to be one big family, we cannot simply pay lip service. We have to accept some of us will have ideas we don't all agree with and include them nevertheless.

You can't talk about being inclusive and only include people you agree with.

That is why I find troubling letter-writer and CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress Bernie Farber's contention that we should not be running this type of story. After eloquently laying out the reasons why associating the Holocaust with Canada's use of security certificates is wrong, he added, "We never expected to have to have this discussion with the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*."

One could easily construe this comment as a form of censorship. How dare we run a story many of us, including our influential community leaders, disagree with?

It's no wonder some of the less affiliated and younger generation in Ottawa see the organized Jewish community as overly conservative and indifferent to their concerns or ideas.

If we, as a community, are interested in reaching out to those groups and making them feel part of the *mishpacha*, we better take the time to listen to their ideas and concerns. We need to be open and demonstrate we are welcoming and take them seriously.

And yes, those concerns and ideas will continue to be discussed in the *Bulletin*,

even if I, and many others, don't agree with them.

Otherwise it is business as usual.

When I became editor, one of my goals was to broaden the coverage of the paper and try to include stories from the wider Jewish community. I wanted readers to know, regardless of their affiliation or religious observance, the paper belongs to them. If someone in our community is doing something unique or if an event takes place that would be of interest to the community, the *Bulletin* will be there to cover it. Occasionally, those stories will be controversial. And yes, we will continue to run content aimed at a younger generation, which some might find offensive.

Editorially, the *Bulletin* is about different segments of our community conversing with each other in a polite, respectful and civil manner. The more we know about each other, the quicker we can get on with the job of building a stronger, more welcoming community.

As a community, we face a credibility problem when dealing with the unaffiliated, the intermarried and the younger generation.

At times, we may not like what they say, but, if we don't give them the opportunity to speak through the paper and other venues, we are essentially kicking them out of our *mishpacha*. And that would be a real failure.

## School funding may be an issue during fall campaign

While you are setting up your lawn chairs for the beginning of summer, your provincial politicians are preparing lawn signs in anticipation of summer's end.

That's because, for the first time in Ontario's history, they all know the date of the next election before the campaign begins.

After winning the last election in October 2003, the new Liberal government brought in a law setting fixed election dates every four years.

So, this October 10, Ontarians will go to the polls. The date has been set in stone for months (after being switched from October 4, which conflicted with Shemini Atzeret).

Don't let the warmth of the season lull you into thinking otherwise: All candidates worth their salt will be spending their summer holiday doing everything they can to ensure victory. Everything short of putting up those lawn signs, which they can't do until the campaign officially begins in mid-September.

With the finish line set, a neck-and-neck race is already developing. An SES Research poll released in early June showed the governing Liberals and opposition Conservatives in a dead heat, with both parties supported by just less than 30 per cent of eligible voters. With the NDP at 16 per cent, a minority government – with New Democrats holding the balance of power – becomes a



**Alan Echenberg**

distinct possibility.

Of course, much can happen between now and October 10. At this point, it's hard to say which issues will catch fire with the electorate.

There are some likely suspects: environmental issues, health care, education, taxes, crime, and energy policy.

On election day, there also will be a historic province-wide referendum on whether or not Ontario should abandon the current first-past-the-post voting system and adopt a proportional system similar to those used in Germany, Scotland, and elsewhere.

Although it's hard to predict how any of these issues will affect the fortunes of the various parties, some issues have a way of influencing campaigns in unexpected ways.

Separate school funding is an issue important to many readers of this publication, but it does not often capture the attention of the broader voting public.

In Ontario, about two-thirds of school-

age children attend mainstream public schools. Among those who don't, more than 90 per cent attend separate Roman Catholic schools, which are fully funded by the province. Non-Catholic independent schools, including Jewish day schools, receive no provincial funding at all. Parents who wish to send their kids to these schools must pay substantial tuition fees.

In a non-binding 1999 decision, a UN Committee found that Ontario's funding of Roman Catholic schools, to the exclusion of other faith-based schools, was discriminatory and violated the UN Covenant on Civil Rights.

But an earlier decision by the Supreme Court of Canada found the practice to be constitutional, as the funding of Ontario Catholic schools was enshrined in the 1867 BNA Act.

The funding issue was a factor in the 2003 election campaign, when the Liberal Party promised to repeal the governing Conservatives' Equity in Education Act, which provided modest tax cuts to parents who sent their kids to independent schools. After the election, the victorious Liberals did just that.

Now, in the current election year, the issue is bubbling up once again. On one side, groups such as the Multi-Faith Coalition for Equal Funding of Faith-Based Schools are lobbying politicians to broaden

education funding to include non-Catholic independent schools. The group is also planning to launch a lawsuit against the provincial government over what it alleges is discrimination against disabled students who attend private religious schools and do not get funding available to disabled students in public schools.

On another side, groups such as Education Equality in Ontario are campaigning for the elimination of all separate religious school funding and the creation of a single public system. Their view is echoed by the Green Party of Ontario, and also by a number of public school boards across the province, including Ottawa's.

The Liberal government (as well as the NDP) promises to maintain the status quo.

"I am for supporting the system as it exists today and improving the quality of education through that system," Premier Dalton McGuinty told a television interviewer last year.

Progressive Conservative leader John Tory has vowed to "make sure there is an element of fairness between different faith-based school organizations," but the party has not yet offered any specific proposals.

Separate school funding is not often an issue that dominates elections, but there are signs it may be something campaigning politicians ignore at their peril this year.

## How to make the next Hillel reunion more fun

Cellphones rang during speeches, but not with downloaded hip-hop ring tones – they were the boring *deet-deet-deeheet* or even the old-fashioned *ring-ring*. Adults sheepishly approached the ice cream and fruit smoothie bar. Flashing disco lights at the back of the gym were disregarded, out of place. Even the licorice stuck in the table centrepieces went mostly uneaten.

In other words, there was a bit of a generation gap at the Hillel alumni reunion on May 6. There were a few recent graduates, along with some current students – young kids who came with their parents – but, in talking with people around the room, the youngest grads seemed to be from the mid-1980s, making them more than 20 years older than me.

This is not to say the event was a fail-

ure. At one point, I was told, 160-180 people were packing the Hillel Academy gym, though, by the time of the speeches, the number seemed closer to 75-80, including about 40 current and former teachers and faculty, organizers and board members. Some even came from out of town, mostly Montreal, Toronto and New York. With either attendance figure, at \$100 per ticket, the reunion was at least successful in the ledger book.

However, the first-ever Hillel reunion, after 60 years of graduating classes and more than 1,000 alumni, was a learning experience. I'd like to offer some of my observations, so 75th, 80th and even 100th anniversary reunions can be that much better.

Cost: Tickets were \$100 per person, or

\$180 for a couple. This needs to be cut in half, at the very least, because right off the bat a huge portion of the Hillel alumni were alienated. Whether grads can afford to pay but don't want to, or are recent alumni – current students in high school or university, or those just entering the workforce – the price was too high. Perhaps there could be an \$18 or \$36 student or under-25 ticket?

Location: Don't hold the event at Hillel Academy. Since the majority of Hillel alumni graduated before the move to the new building, on what is now Nadolny Sachs Private, there is little sense of history and returning to where it all started. Places such as the Congress Centre, Agudath Israel or Machzikei Hadas synagogues, or an outdoor park such as Vincent Massey or Major's Hill would have been better and more attractive to those coming from out of town.



Alexander Baker

Less presentation and expense: A Hillel reunion does not have to be everything to everyone – all it has to be is a fun, stress-free afternoon where people can talk about old times. The professional DJ was unnecessary, as were the TV/computer station at the back of the room and the efforts to spruce up the gym with drapery and plants, though the fabric quilts made by Hillel students were a nice touch.

Less organization and history: At any event, there is a – justified – instinct to acknowledge all the people who put hard work into making it happen. Unfortunately, the reunion wasn't long enough. After speeches by the main event organizers, current Hillel principals and board chairs, as well as an ... enlightening ... presentation on the history of the school, there was only about an hour and a half for the alumni to mingle and reminisce, which is the whole point of a reunion and leads me to my next point ...

More fun: The slogan for the reunion's advertising was, "Come join us as we celebrate 60 years of academic excellence." The problem was nobody came to talk about the education they got from Hillel. Alumni came to swap old stories about playing at recess, getting detention or annoying teachers and passers-by on the street.

From alumni who will remain anonymous, I heard about throwing buckets of water out the windows onto people waiting for buses. A student at a college across the street who took rifle pot-shots at the Hillel classroom windows. A kid who always had a magnet on a string to get coins out of the metal grates in the pavement. Of course,

Stan Katz tossing candies to people in the hall was another favourite recollection.

Talk of "academic excellence" was conspicuously absent. In fact, one of the things uniting all the alumni at the reunion, whether they graduated in 1956 or 1986, was how much they all disliked the school when they went there! "I hated Hillel" was the most common refrain of the day. But the next thought was usually something along the lines of, "but I always knew how good a school it really was."

This is something organizers should recognize. They need to be able to make fun of themselves and their school. Rather than a pricey kosher catered meal, why not serve the rubber hot dogs and falafels we used to get once a month on Hot Dog and Falafel Day, along with some of those ice cream cups with the flat wooden scoopers? How about a contest for the best impersonation of a teacher? Or joke awards, maybe for the alumni who got the most detentions, gave Hebrew teachers the hardest time, or are least likely to come back for a Hillel reunion?

These things could help captivate the alumni and create a more fun atmosphere. After all, on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon, alumni were heading to the field outside for the annual Lag Ba'omer carnival, complete with a petting zoo. Which conclusively proves one thing: Hillel alumni really are more comfortable with their own kind.

*Alexander Baker graduated from Hillel Academy in June 1999. He fondly recalls building snow forts in the schoolyard, playing floor-hockey in the gym at recess and arguing with his math and Torah teachers.*



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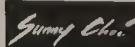
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Lisa Cogan,  
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**President's term draws to a close:  
"Thank you for the honour"**

It seems like only yesterday that I became the president of Jewish National Fund and, as my term draws to a close, I would like to reflect on what we have accomplished.

For the past four years, the goal has been to reclaim the vibrancy and profile of JNF in our community. I think that, for the most part, we have succeeded.

Our recognizable brands have been revitalized and are, once again, viable and attractive events. The Negev Dinner has become one of our community's major evenings. Additionally, it now welcomes regular support from the non-Jewish community and, with JNF's non-governmental organization status, new provincial and municipal doors have opened.

Our Blue Box campaign has also attracted new interest. For the past two years, the formula of a "draw" based on boxes containing at least \$36.00, has produced an impressive number of filled boxes and prizes such as an Israeli trip and a ticket to the Victor/Clinton dinner. Our annual telethon has also appreciably expanded. The call to "green" has Ottawa generously responding by purchasing more of those essential trees for both southern and northern Israel.

Beyond all this, a new initiative was created by our board. Over the past four years, we have hosted a series of receptions. They have included private tours of the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, lectures by artist and historian Jennifer Dickson and a week long photographic exhibit of the Danny Taran book, *4000 Year Journey in Search of Peace*. The superlative attendance at those events is a positive endorsement of our newest endeavour.

I am impressed with and grateful for the strength and energy of the board, which has proven to be so reliable and productive. I thank you all.

To our professionals, Mark Mendelson, Eastern Canada Executive Director, Marge Blostein, Ottawa Co-ordinator and Muriel Benlolo, past interim Co-ordinator, who are the glue of all that we do, I express my deep gratitude and respect.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Negev Dinner honourees Vera Klein, Hartley Stern and Stephen Victor. During my term, their respective names moved our fundraising to new heights and they were at the essence of each financial success. We can boast a total of more than \$2 million for Israel and we are forever grateful for this magnificent success.

On that note, I thank you for the honour and the opportunity of working with the Jewish National Fund in Ottawa. Such undertakings are only as successful as the host community.

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## IN MEMORIAM: Vicki and Jim Tassie, a remarkable Ottawa couple

By Ely Bollegraaf

It is with great regret I report the recent passing of a very remarkable couple, Jim and Vicki Tassie, who volunteered as resource individuals for the Anne Frank Exhibit when it was brought to the Canadian War Museum by the Ottawa Shoah Committee in 1992.

Jim (James Stewart) Tassie, and his wife Vicki (Wilhelmina, maiden name Hoeksma) Tassie, a very caring, intelligent, interesting, charming, and gentle couple, had been married for 61 years, were long-time residents of Ottawa and were well known in the Ottawa Dutch community and at Carleton University. They died within two and a half weeks of each other in Markham, Ontario.

They spent 60 happy years in Ottawa before moving to a seniors' facility in Markham in August 2006, because they needed support in their daily life. Until the year before, they lived in their own charming home, took part in many activities, including the annual Dutch Queen's birthday party, a book club, lectures and neighbourhood activities.



Vicki and Jim Tassie, August 2006

(Photo: Ely Bollegraaf)

Jim, born in Winnipeg on June 16, 1917, grew up in Hamilton, served as a lieutenant with the Canadian Intelligence Corps during the Second World War, completed a PhD in French in Toronto and had a very lengthy career as professor at Carleton University. He died on April 24, 2007. He was 89 years old.

Vicki, born in Bussum, the Netherlands, on November 14, 1915, grew up in The Hague, graduated from law school at Leiden University just before the onset of the Second World War and died on May 12, 2007 at the age of 91.

Jim and Vicki were a remarkable couple who distinguished themselves in various ways, including helping to thwart Germany's aggression and Nazi wrongdoings during and after the Second World War.

After completing her law degree, Vicki, a charming petite blond, worked for the Dutch Red Cross during the Second World War. The job provided her with the opportunity to learn the layout and content of the Gestapo headquarters she would periodically visit as a representative for individuals who were picked up and put in jail. She made very good use of this inside knowledge and deftly procured ("organized") stamped blank Gestapo letterhead paper, which could be put to very beneficial use by the Dutch Underground in

the production of forged documents for the release of prisoners.

She also was outraged at the singling out, maltreatment and deportation of Jews. Vicki sewed the Jewish star on her own clothing and deliberately wore it in public for at least three weeks until her friends convinced her she could be jailed, or worse.

At the end of the war, Vicki worked with Jim when she was assigned to act as an interpreter when the Canadian Intelligence Corps interrogated captured Nazis. She was not only an invaluable source of information on key Nazis and their activities, greatly facilitating the war's "clean-up" work, but Vicki and Jim rapidly fell in love with each other and were married within a year. They came to Canada in 1946.

While in Ottawa, they lived in a modest but pleasant home on Colonel By Drive, along the canal. Their home's location was an obvious choice for Vicki, for whom canals, boats, reflections of light off the water in the summer and the sight of skaters in the winter had been daily images during her earlier life.

(Continued on page 10)

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## OTTAS performs at Hillel Lodge

By the Ottawa Talmud  
Torah Afternoon School  
Grade 8 class

After a series of technical difficulties and weeks of postponements, Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School (OTTAS) Grade 8 students finally got to perform their talents for the eager residents of the Hillel Lodge. Each student thoughtfully put together their own performance exhibiting their skills in singing, dancing, playing instruments and poetry.

Spencer Asch-Jones acted as MC for the evening, introducing each of his fellow classmates before their performance. Unfortunately, due to faulty equipment, dancers Ariana Sculnick-Bercovitch and Netanya Cohen did not get to perform. Nevertheless, residents still enjoyed the poetic stylings of Alexandra Grinfeld, as well as the instrumental music talents of Joshua McCarthy on the saxophone, Samuel Levine with the drums, Gilad Streiner



OTTAS students entertain at the Lodge, accompanied by teacher Shirley Schildkraut.

jamming on his guitar, Emily Anzaro and Tamara Morrell doing a duet on the piano, and, last but not least, Benjamin Smith playing his mandolin.

Fellow classmate and Kiwanis award-winning singer Amy Greenberg sang *Lean On Me*, accompanied by the singing of Ariana Sculnick-Bercovitch and teacher Shirley Schildkraut's guitar. At the end of a wonderful performance, all the Grade 8s sang along to class favourite *We Rise Again* from

the March of the Living. Accompanying them again was well-loved teacher Shirley Schildkraut.

While preparing for their performance, the students got postponed multiple times for reasons ranging from the Lodge being in respiratory and gastronomic lockdowns to Jewish holidays. In the end, the hard work and patience of the students paid off when they saw the genuine smiles of the residents gathered in their third-floor dining hall. Happiness and

smiles were everywhere, even from the residents who have difficulty hearing. One woman enjoyed the presentation so much she removed her dentures and used them to clap!

The visit to Hillel Lodge was just one part of the OTTAS Grade 8 community awareness program. Through this program, students are learning about a number of the Jewish community organizations and are getting the chance to volunteer and learn how they work.

## Couple empathizes with Jewish people

(Continued from page 9)  
in the Netherlands. Vicki graced her walls with her own fine needlework, a few significant Dutch paintings and an antique Friesian clock. There was always an assortment of open books lying around in which this studious couple was constantly engrossed. Their kind

and gentle personalities endeared them to friends and neighbours alike. A visit to their home would guarantee the guest would experience a meaningful, thought-provoking and gentle introspective conversation.

The senseless horror of the plight of the Jews during the Second World War weighed heavily on Vicki and was something she wrestled with constantly. As the years went by, she increasingly focused her attention on this subject, as it frustrated her

comprehension of a "merciful God." Her Dutch Calvinist upbringing and her scholarly education had instilled in her a great acceptance and empathy for the Jewish people. As a result, she questioned some of the basic tenets with which she was brought up.

Vicki wrote her *War Years Memoir* and, although it was never published in its entirety, excerpts have appeared as several chapters in the 1980 McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited published book *A Liberation Album, Canadians in the*

*Netherlands 1944-1945*, edited by David Kaufman and Michiel Horn. Lovely photos of Vicki and Jim, at the time of the publication of the book, are included in the book.

Vicki and Jim were buried in gravesites of the Waterdown Anglican Church, in Waterdown, near Hamilton, Ontario.

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## A hero for all heroes

By Jonathan Avery

Ottawa was the setting for the fourth annual Israeli Film Festival, held May 29-June 10 at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum, and Israel's first astronaut was one of the festival's stars, albeit posthumously.

*The First Israeli in Space*, directed by Neil Weisbord, is an inspiring and emotional documentary about Ilan Ramon, the air force pilot who became the first Israeli astronaut to go into space in January 2003.

The film chronicles his life from the beginning of his training in July 1998, to the tragic end of his mission, and life, when the Columbia Space Shuttle exploded while re-entering Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003. The disaster killed all seven crew members aboard.

Ramon is described in the film as a man his peers thought highly of. Dr. Steve MacLean, a Canadian astronaut who was a close friend of Ramon's, was on hand for the screening and said

Ramon was a highly respected flyer.

"Ilan was a pilot's pilot," he said, "and everybody in the entire base wishes that they could be like him – not only in terms of his skills that he requires to fly but also his relationship that he has with his peers, family and friends."

The film does a good job capturing Ramon's affinity and his especially close relationship with his family.

There is footage of the transition he and his family had to endure by relocating to the United States, interviews with Ramon's wife, Rona, and countless barbecues the astronauts and their families always seem to be having in their backyards.

Ramon was the son of a Holocaust survivor and had strong commitments to family and Judaism. In fact, while the shuttle was orbiting Earth Ramon used a televised interview to speak about Judaism and the survival of the Jewish people. During the broadcast, he also told the story of a miniature Torah scroll he

brought along and its significance. The Torah's owner, Professor Joseph Goshim of the University of Tel Aviv, was a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and gave the scroll to Ramon to take with. Ramon said the Torah scroll symbolized the resiliency of the Jewish people, their ability to survive dark times and maintain hope.

The story continues even after Ramon's death, though, when his wife tracked down the destroyed miniature Torah's twin and asked MacLean to take it to space with him.

To Rona, Ilan's idea of taking the Torah into space represented the apogee of man's achievements, whereas the Holocaust was the low point. Bringing the Torah into space brought spiritual, traditional and scientific elements together, while MacLean added an ecumenical dimension – a non-Jew consummating the vision of an Israeli.

Besides the Torah scroll,



Canadian astronaut Dr. Steve MacLean (right) chats with Israeli Ambassador Alan Baker and his wife Dahlia at the screening of the film *The First Israeli in Space*.

Ramon also brought along with him a drawing done by a child killed at Terezin of what the earth might look like from the moon. Imagine: a child in a concentration camp picturing himself on the

moon, looking down at the earth, and Ramon watching the planet's orbit from a view almost identical to the child's imagination.

With stories such as these, it is not hard to see why

Ramon was so well liked and respected. However, the documentary was never intended to be a tribute; it was first broadcast prior to the Columbia mission.

"It's not a film that was made about a tragic end," said Weisbord, who attended the screening. "It was a film that was first broadcast two weeks before the launch; it was a film that tells a story of two men in the beginning – Ramon and his backup Ilan Mayo ... who were excited to make their way into the world of space."

While there are emotional undertones brought about by the knowledge we are watching a man (Ramon) who will ultimately lose his life, the film tells a true story of a man who was the first of his kind and proud of where he came from, a man who held tradition close to his heart and was proud of the flag he wore upon his shoulder. Ramon touched the lives of many around the world and, through this film, will continue to do so.

– with files from Maxine Miska

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A Hillel Lodge Honour Fund is a permanent pool of capital that earns interest or income each year. This income then supports the priorities designated by you, the donor.

#### Leona Adler Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Marilyn Adler;  
Donald Chodikoff by Marilyn Adler;  
Nathan Segall by Marilyn Adler.

In Honour of:

Joanna and Ira Abrams Mazal Tov and best wishes on the wedding of your son by Marilyn Adler and Neil Blacher.

Dora Litwack I hope you had a special Mother's Day because you always made Mother's Day so special here at the Lodge with love by Marilyn Adler.

In Observance of the Yortzeit of our beloved mother and wife by Jeff, Marilyn, Elayne and Bill Adler and families.

#### Sonia Rawicki Agulnik Music Therapy Fund

In Memory of:

Beloved mother & mother-in-law of Jan & Larry Harder by Paula and Manny Agulnik.

In Honour of:

Manny Agulnik Best wishes on your special birthday by Faye Zebberman; and Cheryl Kardish-Levitian and Brian Levitan and Family; and Mark, Shereen, Alyse & Cara Miller.

Paula and Manny Agulnik Mazal Tov on becoming grandparents to Eden Sheli by Cheryl Kardish-Levitian and Brian Levitan and Family.

### In support of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge In the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre

#### Remy Albagli Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Alain Albagli by Jennifer and Jean Maroun; Lisa Sawtell; Janet and Christopher Tsouli; Peter Gadsby; and Lisa Sawtell.

#### Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Carolyn and Sid Katz; Aron Greenspan by Carolyn and Sid Katz; Rudy Kanigsberg by Carolyn and Sid Katz.

#### Elsie Baker Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Polly and Jack Moran.

In Honour of:

Eleanor Cutler On the occasion of her 70th birthday by Polly and Jack Moran.

#### Fred and Esther Ballon Family Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Esther and Fred Ballon.

In Honour of:

Esther Ballon Our love and best wishes to you for a speedy and complete recovery by Ethel and Abe Murray.

Maurie Karp With our love and best wishes on your special birthday by Esther and Fred Ballon.

R'fuah Shleima:

Rudi Flieg by Esther and Fred Ballon.

#### Boris and Dolly Blacher Fund

In Honour of:

Bo Blacher on your recovery by Elaine Hauptman.

Ruth McConnell on your recovery by Elaine Hauptman.

#### Joel and Sharon Edelson Family Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Sharon and Joel Edelson.

#### Nell Gluck Memorial Fund

In Honour of:

Toby Appel Mazal Tov on your 95th birthday. We wish you many more years of good health by Maureen and Henry Molot, Alex, Adena, your new great-grandson and Edie and Shahar.

Maureen and Henry Molot Mazal Tov on the birth of your grandson by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

#### Evelyn and Irving Greenberg Family Fund

In Memory of:

Irving Greenberg by Marion and Shlomo

Mayman; Dorene Hurtig; Ken Kavanat; Shirley and Albert Winer; Ricki and Barry Baker; and Sonja and Ron Kesten.

#### Moe Greenberg & Elissa Greenberg Ivy Fund

In Memory of:

Aron Greenspan by Elissa and Avraham Ivy. In Honour of:

Fran and Morty Ross Congratulations on your son Jonathan's graduation and engagement by Elissa and Avraham Ivy.

#### Lillian and Morris Kimmel Family Fund

In Memory of:

Beloved mother of Rabbi M. Berger by Morris Kimmel, The Kaiman, Kimmel & Levine Families. In Honour of:

Zahava and Barry Farber May you have many happy and healthy years in your new home by Janet, Steven, Tobin and Aaron Kaiman.

Morris Kimmel Mazal Tov and best wishes on receiving the Shalom Perel President's Award of Merit from Hillel Lodge by Lily Feig; and Marilyn and Fred Small.

Morris Levine Mazal Tov and best wishes on your 90th birthday by Brenda, Nathan, Jesse and Daniel Levine, and Morris Kimmel.

#### Bill and Phyllis Leith Family Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Kayla and Alvin Mallay; Sylvia Allen by Lisa, David, Sydney and Zachary Leith.

Barry Cohen by Lisa and David Leith.

#### Levenson-Polowin Feeding Fund

In Honour of:

The Hon. Madame Justice Sandra Chapnik Mazal Tov on receiving the W.L.A.D. 2007 President's Award by Heidi Polowin.

Heidi and Steve Polowin In appreciation by Susan Krongold.

Heidi and Steve Polowin with love by Malca and Chuck Polowin.

Melanie Polowin Mazal Tov and best wishes on your move to Gowlings by Heidi, Steve, Jordana and Daniel Polowin.

#### Max Lieff Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Dorothy Lieff.

#### Sam and Dora Litwack Family Fund

In Honour of:

Dora Litwack Mazal Tov on receiving the Thelma Steinman Direct Service Award from Hillel Lodge by Lily Feig; Marion Silver and Allan Brass and Family; and Reba Diener.

R'fuah Shleima by Sonja and Ron Kesten; Marion Silver and Allan Brass and Family; and Reba Diener.

#### Elliot and Helen Marshall Family Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Aron Greenspan by Helen and Elliot Marshall.

#### Dennis Newton Memorial Fund

In Observance of the Yortzeit of Dennis Newton, dear father of Wendy Klein by Golda Feig and Ned Steinman and Family.

#### Abe and Bertha Palmer Endowment Fund

In Memory of:

Irving Greenberg by Sunny and John Tavel.

#### Pencer Family Fund

In Memory of:

Rudy Kanigsberg by Marcia and Irwin Pencer and Family.

#### Stephen and Debra Schneiderman Family Fund

In Memory of:

Issie Caplan by Stephen Schneiderman.

In Honour of:

Joanna and Ira Abrams Mazal Tov and best wishes on the marriage of your son Daniel to Evelyn by Debbie and Stephen Schneiderman. R'fuah Shleima:

Sonia Greenspoon by Debra, Stephen, Stacey and Jordon Schneiderman.

#### Label and Leona Silver Family Fund

In Memory of:

Aron Greenspan by Leona and Label Silver.

#### Ralph and Anne Sternberg Memorial Fund

In Memory of:

Morris Browns by Laya and Ted Jacobsen. Nathan Segall by Laya and Ted Jacobsen.

In Honour of:

Laya Jacobsen In appreciation of her extraordinary kindness to me on my 60th birthday. With love and gratitude by Ted Jacobsen.

Ted Jacobsen With best wishes for a Happy 60th birthday and many more healthy and happy years by Anita Rappaport; and Estelle and Sydney Backman.

In appreciation for their kindness on his 60th birthday by Ted Jacobsen:

Stephanie Dancey and Cory; Eileen Gardner; Norah Fleming; Claire Green; Tessa & Drest Pidkash; Shirley Steinberg; Zelma Greenberg; Eddie Saslove; Mervin Blinstein and Haze Wainberg; Rabbi Steven Garten; Michael Mloff; Judith and Harvey Slipacoff; Natalie and Tom Gussman; Sharie and Bill Saunders; Alla and Mark Khesin; Gail and Ned Segal; Joan and Sam Schrier; Jessica and Anatole Khesin; Franny Shier; Betty Mackenzie; Merryl and Charlie Cook; Sandy Marchello; Marilyn Stegenga; Estelle and Sid Backman; Anita Rappaport; Naida Grossman; Maggie Ashby; Linda Stegenga; Michel, Phillip, Franny and David Smith of Creative Kosher Catering; Nina and Mark Dover; and Judy and Paul Mendelsohn.

#### Sarah and Arnie Swedler Family Fund

In Memory of:

Goldie Abramson by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

(Continued on page 14)

**THE LODGE EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT  
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Here's a good opportunity to recognize an event or convey the appropriate sentiment to someone important to you and at the same time support the Lodge. Card orders may be given to Debra or Cindy at 728-3900, extension 111, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friday. You may also e-mail your orders to donations@hillel-ltc.com. E-mail orders must include name, address, postal code, and any message to person receiving the card; and, amount of donation, name, address and postal code of the person making the donation. Cards may be paid for by Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or Cash. Contributions are tax deductible.



(Continued from page 13)

**Aron Greenspan** by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**In Honour of:**

**Sarah and Arnie Swedler** Mazal Tov on the Bar Mitzvah of your grandson Josh and the Bat Mitzvah of your granddaughter Marlee by Rhoda and Eddy Weinberg; and Anita and Mike Goodman.

**Inez Zelikovitz** Mazal Tov and best wishes on your 90th birthday by Sarah and Arnie Swedler.

**Roslyn and Myles Taller Endowment Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

**Goldie Abramson** by Roz and Myles Taller.

**Teddy Goldstein** by Roz and Myles Taller.

**Aron Greenspan** by Roz and Myles Taller.

**In Honour of:**

**Ricki and Marty Saslove** Mazal Tov and best wishes on your special anniversary by Roz and Myles Taller.

**Louis and Diane Tannenbaum Family Fund**

**In Honour of:**

**Harriet Gliserman Gruenwald** For your milestone birthday by The Hon. Mr. Justice Louis and Diane Tannenbaum.

**Milton and Mary (Terry) Viner Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

**Barry Cohen** by Millie Schaefnfeld and Family.

**In observance of the Yortzeit of my beloved brother, Joe Viner** by Millie Schaefnfeld and Family.

**Eric Weiner and Arlene Godfrey Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

**Goldie Abramson** by Arlene Godfrey and Eric Weiner.

**In Honour of:**

**Sharon and Paul Finn** All our best for a Happy Anniversary by Arlene Godfrey, Eric, Melissa and Laura Weiner.

**Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund**

**In Memory of:**

**Goldie Abramson** by Anna and Sam Wex.

**Stanley Goodman** by Anna and Sam Wex.

**In Honour of:**

**Maureen and Henry Molot** Mazal Tov and our very best wishes on the birth of your grandson by Anna and Sam Wex.

\*\*\*\*\*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Goldie Abramson** by Ingrid and Gerry Levitt; Nancy, Brian, Janna and Melanie Sher; Ethel and David Malek; Betty and Sam Kotzer; Janice Charbonneau; Margaret and Morlin Aster; Blossom Read; Helen Rosenthal; Shirley and Al Cohen; Rita and Maurice Ryant; Harry Kollarsky, and Carol and Steve Dworkin; Carol

Ansel, Mallory and Aaron Clarke; Donna and Steve Waserman; Susan, David, Sarah and Debra Kriger; Clair Kranzberg; Anita and Mendel Shore; Ruth and Manny Shacter; Shala Samuel and the Silbert Family; Anna Bilsky and Peter Humber; Morris Lang; Avner Ginsburg; Hilda Ginsburg; Eva and Zeev Novak; Edie Landau; Graciela and Buddy Steinberg; Joan and Henry Bloom; The Staff of Kiddytown Stores; Zeev Novak; Barbara and Sid Cohen; Sonja and Ron Kesten; and Ginsberg, Gluzman, Fage & Levitz, Chartered Accountants.

**Beloved Mother of Rabbi Mordechai Berger** by Esty and Fem Bybcezer, and Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

**Donald Chodikoff** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Dee and Yale Gaffen, Mitzi Merson; Carl Baylin & Family; Eva and Nathan Segall; and Ida, Danny, Samuel & David Ellenberg.

**Barry Cohen** by Ruth and Irving Aaron.

**Leonora Gartenberg** by Carolyn Weiss.

**Aron Greenspan** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Goldie Cantor; Rickie and Marty Saslove; Sally and Morton Taller; and Barbara, Howard, Erica and Lorrie Geller;

**Naomi Guttman** by Roz and Stan Labow.

**Rudy Kanigberg** by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

**Stanley Millstone** by Gabriella, Tony and Mikayla Young.

**Anne Saslove** by Sonja and Ron Kesten.

**Nathan Segall** by The Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Eader; Evelyn and Issie Hoffman; and Germaine Houle.

**Elizabeth Silver** by Melissa Hillary; Rosalie G. Shore; Barbara, Harry, Jeffrey and Debra Jerome; Cynthia and Herbert Cowan; Pharmasave Drugs; Earla Clemo; Andree and Murray Shore; and Carol Silver and Ted Tolchinsky.

#### IN HONOUR OF:

**Maurie Karp** Best wishes on your special birthday and many more happy and healthy years by Claire and Irving Bercovitch.

**Brian Keller** Mazal Tov and best wishes on your 60th birthday by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

**Morris Kimmel** Mazal Tov on receiving two special, well-deserved awards. Yasher Koach by Roslyn and Lee Raskin

**Dora Litwack** Mazal Tov on receiving The Thelma Steinman Award by Rita Hornstein.

**Maureen and Henry Molot** Mazal Tov on the birth of your grandchild by Esty and Fem Bybcezer.

**Carol and Ron Ogusky** Sincere, heartfelt Mazal Tov on and best wishes on your marriage by Helen Rosenthal.

**Dodie and Brian Patechin** Mazal Tov on Noah's graduation by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

**Fran and Mort Ross** Mazal Tov on Jonathan's graduation from Medical School and on his engagement by Roz and Steve Fremeth.

**Laya and Sol Shabinsky** Mazal Tov on the graduation of your grandson Adam. Enjoy the nachas by Ricki and Barry Baker.

**Debi and David Shore** Mazal Tov on your 50th wedding anniversary. May you continue to celebrate many happy, healthy years together by Claire and Irving Bercovitch.

**Inez Zelikovitz** Best wishes on your 90th birthday by Rose Taylor.

#### R'FUAH SHLEMA:

**Dora Litwack** by Rita Hornstein; Roslyn and Lee Raskin; and Dorothy and Maurie Karp.

## One hundred years of Jewish communal life in Cuba, June 20

What images do Cuban Jews evoke? Posh expatriate communities threaded along Miami Beach? But what about the Jews who remained in Cuba – the revolutionaries, the artists, the filmmakers?

Dr. Ben Shek will present *One Hundred Years of Jewish Communal Life in Cuba* at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre on Wednesday, June 20 at 7:30 pm.

Dr. Shek has visited Cuba at least once annually for the past 35 years and has been in contact with the Jewish communities in Havana, Santiago and Cienfuegos. On his last visit in January 2007, he discovered important research materials on the history of Jewish communal life in Cuba. He will discuss the role of Jews



Dr. Ben Shek

*Canadian Jewish Outlook* and vice-president of the United Jewish Peoples Order.

Dr. Shek's talk is co-sponsored by the Soloway Jewish Community Centre and *Outlook Magazine*. There is no admission charge. For more information contact Maxine Miska at [mmiska@jccottawa.com](mailto:mmiska@jccottawa.com) or 613-798-9818, ext. 263.

## New Jewish daycare to open in September

elementary school children.

The daily schedule will include activities to imbue the children with a love for their Jewish heritage.

They will learn exciting Jewish songs, which will teach them about their heritage, Shabbat and the holidays.

The program promises to be flexible enough to meet the needs of all parents. There is an option for either a full-day or half-day program and an opportunity to send your child to daycare for one or more days per week. As well, afternoon drop-in will be available for

They will play with Torahs, mezuzaahs and Jewish character puppets. Children

will grow and learn, develop basic skills, play and have fun while exploring their Judaism.

Chabad of Centrepointe's new daycare will have an environment that feels like home. All caregivers and staff will allow the children to grow with care and respect where the child feels important. They will give the child an opportunity to discover and explore. They will provide age-appropriate educational materials, concept games, skill-building tools, and sensory-stimulating toys, as well as nature and real-life objects and exhibits.

All will bring out the Jewish thinker, the artist, the musician, the problem-solver, the scientist, the mathematician, in your child.

If you would like to receive more information about this program, call Bassy Mendelsohn, 613-224-7050, or visit [www.ChabadCentrepointe.com](http://www.ChabadCentrepointe.com).

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[www.JccOttawa.com](http://www.JccOttawa.com)

## Jewish artists showcased at Cube Gallery exhibit

By Alexander Baker

There is a term in the German language called *schadenfreude*, meaning taking pleasure from another person's misfortune. Don Monet, owner of the Cube Gallery, is trying to do that to himself.

It all began last summer, when he held an exhibition at the Cube called "Art Against War," and ended with accusations of racism and anti-Semitism levelled against him in this newspaper. A Jewish artist who submitted a piece portraying Israel under siege and spattered with blood felt he and his work was discriminated against.

Monet took his misfortune and laughed at it – though he says he did lose some sleep over the issue. He resolved to hold another exhibition, showcasing Jewish artists in Ottawa and their culture.

"After the exhibit last year, some of the artists in the show said it would be nice to have more Jewish voices being heard," says Monet. "I said OK, let's keep the conversation going and take it in a different direction, so it's less of a response to all that stuff [anti-Semitism] and more of a positive thing about being Jewish and living in Canada."

The result is a show called *Diaspora*, opening June 20 and featuring 19 different Jewish artists in Ottawa, each contributing a small collection of their work. But while the artists are all Jewish, Monet says their "heritage" is the only thing tying them together.

"People draw their choices for their subject matter from the community – artists try to be a touchstone or a bellwether for the community that surrounds them," he says. "It's a show about, 'what's the



"Sunset," one of Shirley Birnboim's emotive landscape paintings, will be part of the exhibit *Diaspora* at Cube Gallery featuring 19 Ottawa Jewish artists. It opens June 20.

thinking of Jewish artists in Ottawa, in Canada?" Some [pieces] will be political, some will be religious, but most seem to be just a reaction to living in Canada and being Jewish. You could do a show like this anywhere, but, in Switzerland or somewhere else, it would be totally different."

In fact, the diversity of the artwork is what makes the show so interesting. Monet says he was surprised to find only one contributing artist's work was religious in nature. Still lifes, landscapes, watercolours, portraits – painted and photographic – even native art has been submitted by the likes of Pyotr Schwartzman, Shirley Birnboim, Sylvia Klein, David Makow, Lois Siegel, and Daniel Rivaud.

Also contributing to *Diaspora* is the man Monet calls "the dean of the Ottawa art society" and "a treasure for the whole community" Morton Baslaw.

Monet says this type of exhibit, where a particular culture is showcased, is something he wants to do again.

"You could do a show like this with any religious or cultural group. I'm planning one for the aboriginal community in January," he says. "Why not choose some communities that would have a strong response, try and work with their artists and cultural services?"

In order to get the show just right, Monet consulted with Sheldon Taylor of Jewish Family Services and artist Esther Schwan, who helped, among other things, to make sure all the hors d'oeuvres will be kosher and explained what the Hebrew writing in some of the paintings said.

The chance to work with cultural organizations and learn more about a community is another benefit of a show like this, as well as networking with artists – a gallery owner's "bread and butter."

Undeterred by last summer's controversy, Monet says he had to find the silver lining in it – to laugh at his own misery, so to speak.

"I'm glad because this show might not have happened without it. I'm over the moon about this show. This is an example of something really nice and positive coming from something bad. There must be a Hebrew word for that, right? In Hebrew there's a term for everything."

Also featured in the show are Lev Berenshteyn, Batya Cavens, Claire Cohen, Tami Galili Ellis, David Galbraith, Teena Tarantour Goldberg, Sheryl Luxenburg, Stephanie Moore, Sharon Pozner, Fortuné Shugar, Shayna Tate, and Lina Yachnin.

*Diaspora* runs June 20 to July 1 at the Cube Gallery, 7 Hamilton Avenue North. The opening reception takes place Wednesday, June 20, 5 - 9 pm.



Sheryl Luxenburg's highly realistic cracked-glass paintings will be on display. "The Spaces" works are a response to "the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."



Pyotr Schwartzman's "Central Dance" will be featured, along with other examples of native-inspired art by the Jewish artist.

## Chernick and Koven honoured by YMCA-YWCA

By Louise Rachlis

Among the nominees at the 14th Annual National Capital Region YMCA-YWCA May 17 were Diane Koven and Robin Chernick, both of whom are well known in the Ottawa Jewish community.

The gala event at the Ottawa Congress Centre was attended by more than 800 people.

Robin Chernick was nominated in the category of Healthy and Active Living.

For the past 22 years, Chernick has been a pioneer in developing aquafit programs for the disabled in the greater Ottawa community.

As a rehabilitative aquatic fitness leader and specialist in movement disorders, she leads aquafit classes each week to improve the quality of life for more than 100 clients. Among them are stroke survivors, adults

with acquired brain injuries, amputees, post-operative patients and people with reduced mobility and other disabilities.

Financial planner Diane Koven was nominated in the Business, Professions and the Public Sector. She has been a mentor and a role model for many women about the importance of being financially independent and prepared for the future, no matter what is thrown at you.

"I grew up in a family that was very involved in community work," says Koven. "I learned about *tzedakah* at home, where there was a long tradition of involvement in both the general and Jewish communities."

One of Koven's longtime clients wrote to her how much she appreciated "your sound advice, your sense of humor and your empathy during a difficult time."

### Musical Odyssey salutes the Senators



A sold-out audience thoroughly enjoyed Congregation Beth Shalom's 50th anniversary inaugural event, *A Musical Odyssey*. The concert featured (left to right) conductor/composer Joseph Milo, pianist Shoshana Telner, Cantors Daniel Benlolo, Boaz Davidoff and Lipa Glantz (far right). Former Hillel Academy Judaic principal and Canadian Zionist Federation President Arlazar Eliyashiv joined them for the grand finale.

(Photo: Howard Sandler)



An entertaining and 'heart smart' morning was enjoyed by 200 SJCC members recently as the centre celebrated its membership. Bonnie Stern demonstrated a variety of delicious heart healthy recipes, which were later enjoyed by the audience. (Above) Bonnie Stern signs copies of her book, flanked by members of the event's organizing committee: (left to right) Roslyn Wollock, Jessica Lamarche, Deborah Saginur, Gustavo Rymberg, and Patrice Berdnikski. (Photo: Peter Waisser)



Robin Chernick (left) and Diane Koven

Her volunteer organizations range from The Hospice at May Court to PAG (Your Professional Advisors Group), a women's networking group she founded.

Diane Koven is also a frequent writer for the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*, while Robin Chernick is a busy professional photographer.



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## Shavuot celebrated at the Perley Rideau

By Paul Finn

Jewish and non-Jewish residents, staff, family and friends celebrated Shavuot as part of a continuing Jewish cultural and learning experience program.

Led by the indefatigable Rabbi Arnold Fine, Jewish Family Services chaplain, nearly 20 people attended the celebration.

Rabbi Fine explained the festival of Shavuot, its origins and history, and said

Shavuot was the most mystical of holidays for the Jewish people. He commented that Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah by God to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai as well as the wheat harvest in the land of Israel.

The Book of Ruth was read and Rabbi Fine explained the harvesting of wheat and noted part of the field at the side and edge was left for the poor to gather. Interestingly, Ruth was the

great-grandmother of King David.

Resident Leah Toronto said, "I learned a lot and I think it is a wonderful idea to get people together."

Another resident, veteran Charles Baker said, "Rabbi Fine did a great job and I learned a few things."

Isabel Smith, wife of veteran Scotty Smith, said "Rabbi Fine is an amazing storyteller and I really enjoyed the afternoon."

Evelyn Potechin, who is convalescing at the Perley, said, "The service was great. The Perley Rideau is terrific and the blintzes were excellent."

Sheryl Baker (no relation to resident Charles Baker), multifaith chaplain at The Perley Rideau, summed it all up by saying, "It was a privilege for me to be at the Shavuot service and hear the good teachings."

"The Perley Rideau is fortunate to have Rabbi Fine caring for our Jewish residents."

*Paul Finn is the managing director of The Perley Rideau Veterans' Foundation and can be reached at 613-526-7194. The Perley Rideau is home to 450 residents, 250 of whom are Second World War and Korean War veterans.*



Perley Rideau Multifaith Chaplain Sheryl Baker and JFS Chaplain Rabbi Arnold Fine at the Shavuot celebration.

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## Tamir Chai Tea targets programs for kids

The tea will be simmering and the rooms will be shimmering with silver and gold!

Tamir's Chai Tea for 2007 will raise much-needed funds for programs for Jewish children with developmental disabilities. The Keshet for Kids Program assists children to reach their full potential through participation in mainstream summer camps and in structured activities during the school break period.

The Chai Tea will be held on Sunday, August 12, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm at the home of Donna Klaiman and Jeffrey Fine, 16 Garand Place in Alta Vista.

Lily Penso, a founder of Tamir and its first president, will be honoured at the tea. Along with her husband Jerry, Lily has made a huge difference to Tamir and indeed to the community over many years of dedicated involvement.

The Chai Tea will provide a wonder-

ful opportunity to contribute to Keshet for Kids and chat about Tamir's special role in our community and the promising future that lies ahead.

Lily and all of the Tamir family hope you will join in the celebration.

There are no tickets; however, donations will be gratefully received.

For more information, contact Alicia Green at 613-725-3519 or at [aliciagreen@tamir.ca](mailto:aliciagreen@tamir.ca).

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What Madonna Doesn't Know About Kabbalah

Body & Soul: The Portal to Another Dimension

## Getting graphic, again

Well, it can't be avoided.

Graphic novels are here to stay.

I have to admit, I was skeptical about them and, really, they're not my first choice when it comes to book reading. But there's certainly skill involved in their creation, and not just artistic skill. You have to be able to write succinctly and weave a decent-enough story to keep your readers reading until the very last page.

You may want to try these out for readability.

### *I Was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*

By Bernice Eisenstein

McLellan & Stewart Ltd./

Distributed by Raincoast Books

I once knew a fellow who grew up with a father who survived the Holocaust. It was a difficult childhood for him, as it was for many children of Shoah survivors. These kids lived with so many secrets and so many questions. Wanting desperately to know about their parents' lives, they learned more about the losses, having to steer clear of subjects that were completely taboo and could not even be alluded to, having to swallow questions about their parents' experiences, to wonder about the terror, the unspeakable horrors their parents witnessed, the unbelievable deprivation.

Artist Bernice Eisenstein has written a book for those same kids, now adults, as much as for herself. In this deeply moving memoir, the Torontonian takes us on her personal truth-seeking journey, addicted as she has been to the Holocaust all her life.

She admits: "The Holocaust is a drug and I have entered an opium den;" this, at age 11. There was no one to help her shake this addiction, "no Holocaust Anonymous to go to, no Ten-Commandment Step Program," no one she could readily admit this to. All her life, Eisenstein felt like "some Jewish Sisyphus, pushing history and memory uphill, wondering what I'm supposed to be ... wanting to stand before my parents and say, 'Here, take it – it's yours, I don't want it.'"

Yet, at the same time, she wore her lineage as a badge, informing kids in the sandbox, first dates, anyone she met, her parents were from Auschwitz. Mixing ink, wash and watercolour drawings and paintings with powerful and thoughtful text, Eisenstein has written a tribute to her parents with a final understanding she will never really know the truth of what they experienced.

It's difficult to know how to classify this book. It's not really a graphic novel in the restrictive definition of the word; there's only one small section in comic-book form.

## Mazal Tov

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## Book Beat

Kinneret Globerman

Whatever you want to call it, it's worth reading, if only to understand (or relate to) what it is or was like to be a child of Holocaust survivors.

### *exit wounds*

by Rutu Modan

drawn & quarterly/distributed by Raincoast Books

Hardcover, 2007

First off, this is not a comic book. This book contains mature and graphic subject matter, just as most graphic novels do. So you won't want to leave it lying around a house full of youngsters. What caught my eye about this book by Israeli Rutu Modan was it was set in Israel (Tel Aviv, to be exact, although the characters travel to various other places, like Hadera, for one).

The story is about a boy's search for his estranged father – both physically and metaphorically.

Koby Franco is a cab driver in Tel Aviv. One day, he gets a call from a soldier and stranger. When he meets up with her, Numi tells Koby she thinks his father has been a victim of a suicide bombing. Thus begins Koby's reluctant search for his dead father, who just happens to be Numi's boyfriend, even though Numi is Koby's age.

While the two start our miles apart, they end up becoming romantically involved, thus compounding the rather odd situation. And, while the story line is a bit bizarre, it keeps you reading. And that's because it's about relationships: with others, and with oneself.

It also depicts life in Israel. At one point, Koby and Numi are in a morgue when they hear there are seven bodies on their way there. They immediately think the dead are victims of yet another suicide bombing when, in fact, they're Russians from a construction site accident.

Story aside, Modan is a very good artist. Her rendering of the characters, their physicality (the way they move or hold themselves), the way they dress, the clothing they wear, the colours Modan uses, all add to the mood of the story.

I suppose that shouldn't come as a surprise. Modan, born in Tel Aviv in 1966, graduated from the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem *cum laude*.

She's been honing her graphic skills ever since, working as a magazine (*The New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Le Monde*) and book illustrator and as a member of Actus Tragicus, an Israeli comics collective. She has also won many awards for her artwork.

## Mazal Tov!

### Engaged!

Janet and Norman Ironstone are delighted to announce the engagement of their son Joel to Rachel Brooks, daughter of Rebecca and Richard Brooks of Huntsville, Alabama. A spring 2008 wedding in Toronto is planned.

### It's a girl!

Janet and Norman Ironstone are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Hallie Tova, born May 7, 2007 to proud parents, Rochelle and Robert Waxman of Toronto.

## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

... is looking for help in the following areas:

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- MORE DRIVERS are desperately needed to help seniors get to their medical appointments. If you can even offer a couple of hours a month, please call.

- GUTTEN TOG PROGRAM ... Connect with a Jewish senior living in a long-term care facility. Visit once a week, once a month!

- Interested in going out for a coffee/chat and/or playing Gin Rummy with a Yiddish- or French-speaking gentleman recently back in Canada? Gregarious, outgoing and lives in Craig Henry. Great opportunity to practise another language.

- Could you accompany/drive a Walkley area senior who loves movies, bingo and other outings? Afternoons/evenings would work for her.

- The Shalom Bayit Program (to prevent violence against Jewish women) is currently seeking volunteers to sit on its Committee. Interested? Please contact Sarah Caspi at 613-722-2225 ext. 246.

- Russian-speaking seniors need your help to improve their English skills. No teaching background required. A couple of hours per week in the Lincoln Fields and Kanata areas.

- Do you have a special talent? Come share it at our next celebration, senior programs or a monthly luncheon.

Angela Berkeley is waiting to hear from you  
at 722-2225, ext. 304.

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Did you know the Lodge runs programs every day? One morning or afternoon ... Why not volunteer!

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- Reception & administrative help – Weekdays assisting with clerical and reception duties.

- Who doesn't love BINGO? Monday evening BINGO needs more volunteers ... Every second week from 7:00 to 8:15 pm, come lend a hand at this very popular event!

- Entertainers ... Got a talent? Performers are welcome to apply and be enjoyed by all!

*A little time goes a long way at the Lodge!*

For a registration and orientation appointment.

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Her daughter Sarah Citron Lipski felt the need to honor her mother's memory and dedication by organizing a softball marathon in Jenny's name.

Help us honor Jenny's spirit by supporting this event. You can play ball, sponsor a player or sponsor a base. All funds raised will support our "Send a Kid To Camp" program as well as CHEO.

#### KIDS KIDS KIDS

This is your chance to play against the really big kids! The last game of the day is not to be missed! Watch the Junior Team play against Jenny's Team.

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# SUMMER '07

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## Summer drinks for cooling off

With the heat of summer just around the corner, I thought it would be a good time to devote a column to summer drinks.

I remember the first cottage Roger and I rented, on Lake Simcoe near Beaverton, Ontario. This was before we had kids, were passionate Blue Jays fans and were still living in Toronto.

The cottage was situated on a hill and you had to hike down a forested path to get to the sandy beach. We would pack up everything we needed for the afternoon and head down. It was quite a steep climb back up so you wanted to make sure you had everything you needed. We'd fill a big straw bag with our reading, a battery-operated radio (to listen to the baseball game), as well as towels and sun block. We'd fill a cooler with ice packs and drinks.

Our waterfront was a sandy shallow beach with fine-grained brown sand. Weeds tended to grow rather quickly in the sand and Roger was really bothered by the look of weeds poking up through the beautiful sand. So he devised a plan to get our guests to help with the weeding. We'd ply them with drinks and, when their bladders were so full they couldn't



### Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

stand it anymore and had to go to the bathroom, he'd insist they pull 10 weeds before they were allowed to go up the hill to the cottage. Our friends were so desperate to go, they had no choice but to comply and as a result, we maintained our beautiful beach with minimal effort on our part.

During those pre-children summers, one of our favourite drinks was peach milkshakes. We'd combine canned peaches, vanilla ice cream and vodka in the blender for a killer drink. We would usually end up napping before the 7th inning stretch. These days, our taste buds are a bit more refined. Here are a few of our current favourite summer coolers.

#### Instant Frozen Margaritas

Makes 8 drinks

This recipe comes from Pam Anderson's book, *Perfect Recipes for Having People Over* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005). This recipe is simple, but the results are outstanding. The finer the quality of tequila you use, the better tasting the margarita will be.

8 cups ice cubes  
1 can (12 ounces) frozen limeade concentrate  
1 1/2 cups tequila  
1/4 cup Cointreau or other orange flavoured liqueur  
Kosher salt for rims of glasses  
8 lime wedges (to wet rims of glasses)  
8 lime half slices (to garnish drinks)

Place 4 cups ice cubes in a blender. Add half the limeade concentrate, 3/4 cup tequila, and 2 tablespoons Cointreau. Blend at high speed until almost smooth. Pour into a pitcher and place in freezer. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Pour a layer of salt onto a small plate. Moisten each glass rim with a lime wedge and dip in salt. Pour frozen margaritas into glasses, garnish with half lime slice and serve.

#### Banana Colada

Makes 4 servings

This recipe comes from Bobby Flay's book, *Boy Meets Grill* (Hyperion, 1999). It is really thick and frothy and would also make a great dessert. Feel free to substitute vodka for the rum, or leave out the alcohol altogether.

The recipe calls for cream of coconut (not coconut milk), which can be found in the drink section of the supermarket.

2 ripe bananas, peeled and quartered  
2 1/4 cups unsweetened pineapple juice  
1/2 cup cream of coconut (Coco Colada)  
4 ounces dark rum  
2 cups ice  
1/4 cup unsweetened flaked coconut

To toast coconut, preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Spread coconut evenly on a sheet pan and toast until golden, 7 to 10 minutes. Toss or stir the coconut to turn, halfway through.

Place the bananas and pineapple juice in a blender and blend until smooth. Add the cream of coconut, rum and ice and blend until frothy. Pour into 4 glasses and garnish with toasted coconut.

#### Peach and Mint Iced Tea

The problem with most homemade iced teas is that the sugar granules never thoroughly dissolve and you are left with unevenly sweetened iced tea.

The solution is to prepare a simple syrup, which is basically sugar dissolved in hot water and then until thick.

Simple syrup can be stored in the fridge for 2 weeks.

For simple syrup:

1 cup water  
1 cup granulated sugar

For iced tea:

8 cups boiling water  
8 tea bags (orange pekoe or peach)  
4 ripe peaches cut into 1/2 inch pieces  
1 small bunch of fresh mint sprigs  
1/2 cup simple syrup (see step 1 of this recipe),  
or to taste

In a small saucepan bring sugar and water to a boil, stirring, and boil until sugar is completely dissolved. Let syrup cool and chill, covered.

Pour boiling water into a heat-resistant pitcher. Add the tea bags and let steep for 10 minutes.

Remove and discard bags and allow the tea to cool to room temperature.

Add peaches and mint and simple syrup.

Refrigerate until chilled.

Strain, if desired and pour tea into ice-filled glasses.

#### Pomegranate and Lime Iced Tea

This recipe comes from *Real Simple* Magazine's June 2007 issue.

For simple syrup:

1 cup water  
1 cup granulated sugar

For iced tea:

8 cups boiling water  
8 tea bags  
2 cups pomegranate juice  
3 limes, thinly sliced  
1/2 cup simple syrup, or to taste

In a small saucepan bring sugar and water to a boil, stirring, and boil until sugar is completely dissolved. Let syrup cool and chill, covered.

Pour boiling water into a heat-resistant pitcher. Add the tea bags and let steep for 10 minutes.

Remove and discard bags and allow the tea to cool to room temperature.

Add pomegranate juice, limes and simple syrup. Refrigerate until chilled. Pour tea into ice-filled glasses.

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## The playfulness of Yiddish humour

As a young man, my father prided himself on being a trickster and a *kibitzer*. Whether he was racing horses through wheat fields, hiding the bank manager's car on the roof of the bank, pushing friends into snowpiles or, more sedately, trading cards at bridge games, sneaking into the front of a lineup, or simply humming wordless tunes while doing anything and everything, Dad did it with gusto.

Years later, and always after much urging, Dad beamed and laughed when he described these pranks and many more to my sister and me, and to his grandchildren.

It is only recently I've come to realize my father's sense of pride came from following in the footsteps of East European Jewry's rich heritage of Yiddish *kibitzers*. He loved the playfulness that was so much a part of the stories maintaining that culture, lending it resilience during the countless bad times and added joy during the good times. That is the context of the following playfully funny picture book.

*Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me*  
By Simms Taback  
Viking 2005  
Unpaged. Ages 6 and up

I could almost hear my father humming as I laughed and smiled my way through the 13 traditional stories chock full of Yiddish words (translated in parentheses) with accompanying witticisms that make up *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me*.

Keeping with the spirit of the book, I毫不犹豫地 dub it a *klug* (smart), *chutzpahlik* (nervy), *cocanamie* (mixed up and ridiculous), loving, *tour de force*. Each traditional short story, recast by prize-winning author/illustrator Simms Taback, spoofs the trials, tribulations and foibles of life.

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### Zelikovitz Centre events and programs for 2007-2008:

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## Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

Although Taback's illustrations set the scenes as occurring mainly in East European Jewish shtetls, in reality, the situations are transferable most anywhere and the adages are universal.

Taback indirectly underlines that transferability in his introduction. He says, since the English dictionary contains 500 Yiddish words, most of us speak Yiddish whether we know it or not. So why not enjoy learning more? And what better way than through stories in which we move mountains, cure sick chickens, answer riddles, become richer than Rockefeller and, above all, laugh at ourselves?

Kids (and everyone young at heart) will delight in the foolishness of the stories and the cluttered, outlandish, colourful illustrations that speak volumes in their own right. Taback's folk-art style makes his paintings a pleasure to pour over again and again, confident of seeing a little something more each time. Be sure to read the newspapers and notes in the illustrations as well as the body language and facial expressions.

I've never said this about a book before but ... for added amusement, be sure to read the aphorisms printed inside the covers. They contain such treasures as: "All is not butter that comes from a cow" ... "A shlimazel falls on his back and bruises his nose" ... "Words should be weighed not



From *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me* counted" ... and many more.

For a glimpse of the zaniness of Jewish humour that gave rise to the wonderful Yiddish storytellers to whom the book is dedicated – Sholom Aleichem, I.L. Peretz and Mendele Mocher Sforim – as well as American comics like Danny Kaye, Milton Berle, George Burns, Myron Cohen and many others, don't miss *Kibitzers and Fools: Tales My Zayda Told Me*. *Oy vey* (my goodness)! It's a *machaya* (pleasure)! If you don't believe me, ask your *zayda* (grandfather)!



## 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JEWISH FEDERATION OF OTTAWA GOLF TOURNAMENT

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**MONDAY,  
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## On being the strong man a woman wants

Elliott always believed he was a good husband. He strived to satisfy his wife's every wish and was totally perplexed when she divorced him after 10 years.

After blaming her initially, Elliott wondered if there was something for him to learn from his failed marriage. For five years, he researched marital relationships and delved into traditional Jewish sources.

He discovered something eye-opening.

Over the past few decades, in an effort to shed their domineering, controlling image, many men have adopted a new persona, marketing themselves as sensitive, new age guys who go out of their way to please women. They dress, talk and act more effeminate than did their grandparents. (At the same time, women have been filling the vacuum by dressing, talking and acting more like men.) Increasing numbers of men are raised in a single-parent home, without a strong male role model.

The result? Men are criticized for lacking backbone and leadership. For a marriage-minded woman, the strong, traditional 'manly' man is a rare catch.

In his recently published title, *Being the Strong Man a Woman Wants*, Elliot Katz draws on timeless wisdom to show how a man can reclaim the qualities most women still admire and look for in a spouse: decisiveness, willingness to take responsibility, self-reliance, independence and courage.

Katz's award-winning book is thin in content but rich in insights, and offers a refreshing perspective to a society



Photo: Michelle Valberg

## Dating 101

Jack Botwinik

where women do not respect men enough and marriages are shakier than ever.

For example, say a woman habitually spends too much money and the family goes bankrupt. She may resent her husband even though he wasn't the one who overspent. But he failed to take responsibility and negotiate appropriate spending limits.

Despite the well-documented oppression and control by husbands over their spouses through the ages, there have been (and still are) countless men who have been considerate, loving and caring toward their wives, while at the same time strong, confident and protective. Generations of boys have been reared in these values and behaviours, which are reflected in Jewish and other teachings.

Human nature hasn't changed. Notwithstanding the great strides they have made in the corporate world, women still feel a need to be protected, and men a need to protect.

Women admire men who take initiative, show leadership and are not afraid to make decisions. They resent a 'yes-man.'

"The irony," says Katz, "is that if you're just always trying to please [your wife], you don't really please her at all."

The Toronto-based author shares his viewpoint through fictional dialogue between a grandfather and his grandson who is on the verge of divorce. The grandfather's advice, while sounding old-fashioned, has kept his own marriage intact for 50 years.

He explains to his eager-eared grandson the difference between being strong and being controlling: "If she wanted something a certain way, and I was against it just to be bossy – then that would be controlling. If I had insisted on something that showed I cared only about myself – that would be controlling. But when you set a goal that shows you care about your loved ones and you stick to it even when people are against you, that's being strong."

As James Dobson writes in *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women*, "a woman wants to admire and look up to her man, but she doesn't want him to look down on her."

*Being the Strong Man a Woman Wants* is endorsed by relationship experts, including Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, author of *Kasher Sex*. The book may help both men and women sort out contemporary society's confusion over what a man is – or should be.

## Revisiting the 1967 Israeli-Arab war

Charles Krauthammer recently wrote a brilliant column about the three weeks preceding the 1967 war – three harrowing weeks after Nasser demanded and got the withdrawal of the 1957 UN peace force.

Krauthammer states Israeli Defense Force Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin suffered a nervous breakdown but was able to rally to lead the Israeli forces when the time came to make, and act on, the decision to strike. The entire Israeli combat air force was used in the first hours of the war.

Krauthammer points out the decision-making of the Israeli government was not as decisive as it seemed to have been in the immediate aftermath of a stunning military success. He bases his assessment on the definitive history of the war, Michael B. Oren's *Six Days of War* (2003), which drew on previously classified archives.

The *Economist*'s review of Oren's book highlights the dilemma facing Prime Minister Levi Eshkol: "As Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq made a great show of coordinating war plans, Eshkol was terrified of fighting alone, without the support of any great power. ... In the end, a beleaguered Eshkol chose war because he felt he had run out of alternatives."

Oren discusses this book in the last half of a long televised interview. He shows how the war was fueled by a series of cascading domino effects that illustrate the volatility of the Arab-Israeli situation. He emphasizes how rival Arab leaders goaded each other to show commitment to the Arab cause by escalating threats or actions against Israel. This circuit of macho-nationalistic threats built to increasing levels of volatility. Each new element that came into play made things more dangerous.

In 1967, falsified intelligence (*disinformatsiya*) provided by the Soviet Union and passed on to the Syrians, then to Nasser, that Israel was preparing for an attack, overloaded the circuits.

The tense uncertainty of these prewar days and key events of the war itself are shown in a short video extract from newsreels and personal recollections. The high point, as the struggle was turning into victory, is caught in the moving audio recording of the sounds and contemporary radio commentary of the 1967 breakthrough to the Old City of Jerusalem and the dash to the Kotel.

A perspective only recently available is the collection of transcripts and messages from inside the Johnson Administration and its agencies.

It shows how the U.S. became aware of the emerging crisis, its efforts (unsuccessfully) to rally other powers to demonstrate a commitment to peacekeeping after U.N. Secretary General U Thant quickly agreed to Nasser's demand to withdraw peacekeepers, and its diplomatic efforts that succeeded in getting Israel to delay as the threat to its security and survival mounted. We see how the U.S. became aware Israel would indeed react, the realization the peacekeeping gap was not going to be repaired, what happened at the White House when word of Israel's defensive attack and then victory came through, and

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American postwar diplomacy, including a failed American draft UN resolution tying withdrawal to mutual recognition.

Krauthammer and others have pointed out the 1967 war left a legacy of unfinished business and the conditions leading to the 1967 war provide a real basis for Israeli suspicion of paper peace guarantees.

In the current situation, reassessing the 1967 war in the light of what is known now is imperative for all sides and for all outside parties who want to be more helpful now than then.

### Websites

Krauthammer: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/17/AR2007051701976\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/17/AR2007051701976_pf.html) [hyphen intended]

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Economist review: [http://econ161.berkeley.edu/movable\\_type/archives/000136.html](http://econ161.berkeley.edu/movable_type/archives/000136.html)

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1967 film clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUBingaHaag&mode=related&search=Audio%20file%20-%20Kotel%201967>

US documents – Press release <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28146.htm>; Summary <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28165.htm>

US documents collection: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28165.htm>

## Global Shtetl The Jewish Internet

Saul Silverman

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1967 film clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUBingaHaag&mode=related&search=Audio%20file%20-%20Kotel%201967>

US documents – Press release <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28146.htm>; Summary <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28165.htm>

US documents collection: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/jahnsanlb/xix/28165.htm>

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Maureen and Henry Molot on becoming grandparents by Aunt Louella and cousins Pam and Sasha.

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Abe Lebow by Alice, Susannah and Chuck Dallen.

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Dora Litwack on receiving her well deserved award by Phyllis and Bill Cleiman, Jana and Michael and Mami and Ryan.

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Rochelle and Brian Pearl on the marriage of their son Lorne to Sarah Beech by Mollie Fine, Jeff, Julie, Neil and Gary.

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In memory of:

Barry Cohen by Barbara and Joel Diener and family; and by the Diener family and the staff at Saslove's.

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Continued on page 28

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Roger Greenberg on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Tal Gilboa, Paz, Eitan and Hadar Maoz.

Gregory Sanders on the successful completion of his term as Chair of the OJCF by Tal Gilboa, Paz, Eitan and Hadar Maoz.

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Mazal Tov to:  
Roger Greenberg on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Bernie and Donna Dolansky, by the Shabinsky Family; by Libby and Stan Katz; by Evelyn Greenberg; by Allen and Brinlee Gales, Leslie and Keith Ray and Barry and Joy Gales; by Edie Landau; by Carole and Norman Zagerman; by Barbara

and Len Farber and family; and by Ron and Debbie Weiss.

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Irving Greenberg by Marilyn and William Newman; by Gila and Jerry Pearl; by Gert Budovitch; by Rena and Max Cohen; by Doris and Richard Stern; by Corinne, Sheldon, Daniel, Jonathan, Andrew and Liz Taylor; by Barbara and Len Farber; and by Rose and Chick Taylor.

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Birthday wishes to:

Max Kalman on his 101st birthday by Beverly and Joe Zunenshine; and by Dora Wolfe; by Fran and Tully Yaged, Jeffrey, Audrey, Ken, Dylan and Mia; and by Elsa and Murray Wendman, Karen, Rebecca, Susan and Nicole.

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Birthday wishes to:

Maurie Karp on his 80th birthday by Carol, Harvey and Ari Goodman; and by Ruth Karp and Arthur Max.

Arthur Max on his 90th birthday by Ruth, Deanna and Arthur Karp.

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Speedy recovery to:

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Mazal Tov to:

Sam Ages on receiving the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award by Libby and Stan Katz.

Birthday wishes to:

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Congratulations to:

Barbara Farber on her new position of President of UIA Federation Canada by Mom and Dad; and by Fran, Ivan and Carly Kesler.

Mitch Miller on receiving the Freeman Family Young Leadership Award by Barbara, Len, Michael and Steven Farber.

In memory of:

Barry Cohen by Barbara and Len Farber, and by Libby and Stan Katz.

### NORMAN AND ISABEL LESH ENDOWMENT FUND

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Donald Chodikoff by Isabel and Norman Lesh.

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Birthday wishes to:

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Anniversary wishes to:

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### RHODA AND JOE LEVITAN AND FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Rhoda and Joe Levitan on Shayna and Yoni's graduation by Kathi Kovacs, Irwin Schweitzer and Leah.

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Mazal Tov to:

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In appreciation to:

Miniam Levitin by Ken Kavanat.

Continued on page 29

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My family who perished in the Holocaust by Ellen Lithwick.

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#### In memory of:

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#### In memory of:

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#### Continued good health to:

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#### Best wishes to:

Ruth and Joe Viner in their new home by Diana and Alvin Malomet.

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#### Mazal Tov to:

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Roger Greenberg on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Charles Schachnow. Mitch Miller on receiving the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award by Charles Schachnow.

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#### In memory of:

Judy Kanigsberg by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

#### Mazal Tov to:

Roger Greenberg on receiving the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

### Mitch Miller on receiving the Freiman Family Young Leadership Award by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

Sam Ages on receiving the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

#### Yasher Koach to:

Greg Sanders on completing his term as Chair of OJCF by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

Ron Prehogan on completing his term as Chair of the JFO by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

Jonathan Freedman assuming the Chairmanship of the JFO by Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz.

#### Anniversary wishes to:

Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz on their 35th wedding anniversary by Zelda Leibovitch.

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#### Mazal Tov to:

Maureen and Henry Molot on the birth of their grandson by Carol and Stuart Levine.

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#### Congratulations to:

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Elizabeth Silver by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Juair Monson by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Henna Berger by Alti and Berel Rodal.

Avreml Levitan by Alti and Berel Rodal.

#### Mazal Tov to:

David and Ricky Hollander and Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe

Continued on page 30

## In Appreciation:

Archie and I would like to thank all our family and wonderful friends for your help, your visits and many delicious meals and treats. Your generous donations to all the funds in our community made me feel so good. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Please accept this as my personal thank you.

Lynda Nadolny-Cogan

## In Appreciation:

I would like to thank all my family and friends for all their help, cards, calls and charitable donations during my recent illness. Your thoughtfulness and generosity was very much appreciated. Please accept this as a personal thank you.

Jack Baylin

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Sam Ages on receiving the Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award by Rose and Chick Taylor.

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Cantor Benlolo for a beautiful concert at Beth Shalom by Mille Weinstein.

In memory of:

Harry Wise by Mille Weinstein.

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Goldie Abramson by Oiane Wexler and family.

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Maxwell Kalman on his 101st birthday by Oiane Wexler.

Congratulations to:

Muriel and Michael Wexler on the wedding of their daughter Audrey to Warren Boudman by Sandy Marchello.

### SAM AND HELENE ZARET MEMORIAL FUND

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Sue Slack on her 90th birthday by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

Congratulations to:

Alice Brodsky on her graduation from Law School by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

Mazal Tov to:

Gregory and Tani Sanders on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ethan by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

### ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

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Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz on their 35th wedding anniversary by Rick and Helen Zipes, Erin, Michael and Kyle.

Mazal Tov to:

Rick and Helen Zipes on their son Kyle's graduation from Law School by Steven and Elizabeth Rubin.

Frances Karanofsky on her grandson Kyle's graduation from Law School by Steven and Elizabeth Rubin.

David Baker on receiving the 2007 Ottawa Business Journal's Forty Under 40 Award by Rick and Helen Zipes, Erin, Michael and Kyle.

Fran and Mort Ross on their son Jonathan's engagement by Rick and Helen Zipes, Erin, Michael and Kyle.

Dr. and Mrs. Laurie Mendell on the birth of their granddaughter Noah by Rick and Helen Zipes.

R'fiah Sh'lemah to:

Sandra Slover by Rick and Helen Zipes, Erin, Michael and Kyle.

In memory of:

Lyndon Johnson by Rick and Helen Zipes.

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Joey and Sam Mifrod on their 60th wedding anniversary by Sandra and Norman Slover.

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Elhan Sanders on his Bar Mitzvah by Ben Taylor.

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## The life of a toddler

What is your favourite animal? Mine is the toddler. They are almost like cute, small human beings.

But they are not really. Just ask yourself. What exactly do you remember from the time you were between two and four? Not a lot. Do you remember being toilet-trained? There was, in fact, a time when you had to learn how to speak a language because you didn't know one yet. And how do you remember an experience you had no words for?

You can talk to toddlers and they can seem to respond, especially after they learn to talk, but they are not really using words in the same way.

I remember telling one of my sons not to fiddle with the wall plugs because they were dangerous. That was why we had those plastic plugs in the holes. He nodded and smiled and then proceeded to pull out the plug and try to stick his fingers in. I grabbed him just in time to receive a very light shock. See what I mean?

But they are cute.

One of my children wanted to play "bad Edmonton" with me by batting around a birdie with a racket. They all said "pasghetti" and "keputch," which gives you a good idea of their culinary tastes.

My grandson, who is just over three, seems beyond most of this now, but he is a fast learner and we have great

fun together. The best thing about him is, even when he has an "accident," I can just hand him over to his parents.

As for myself, I remember almost nothing before the age of three. At just over two, I travelled from Hamburg, Germany, to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in a converted troop ship, the former *USS General S. D. Sturgess*. Here's the good part. I was the only one on the ship who never vomited. It must have seemed like a giant cradle.

In Toronto, I remember standing on the grass, my arms outstretched to help me balance and leaning back to look up an enormous distance to see my father bouncing a ball on his head. I remember laughing very hard because it was the funniest thing I had ever seen. Literally.

I remember being left in the care of my great aunt by my mother and being scared silly by the pipes outside the wall in her kitchen. They looked like metallic, writhing monsters. My great aunt, who was a kind old lady, did not have any teeth and had a white afro. How could my parents abandon me with such frightening creatures around? I cried for an hour until my mother came back.

A little later, I was taken to the Polish nuns on McCall Street, who ran a nursery and day care. The only thing I remember is nap time on a rubber sheet, because I always woke up wet and warm and had to be changed. The nuns, I think, were not pleased.

## After all these years, still as dumb as ever

Hey Knish readers! Summer is in the air. The birds are chirping, the sprinklers are out, people are wearing their shorts and we're dealing with turning 26.

Our brisses seem like just yesterday, but the reality is we're getting older. A lot of things around us are changing, but the one consistent thing is our complete and utter stupidity.

Byron turned 26 on May 24.

When someone turns 26, most people get drunk and party with their friends. That's just not what the Knish boys do; it's not our style. We prefer to share a smoked meat sandwich and get into an argument, which usually results in our not speaking for a week.

Paul thought a good way to spend Byron's birthday would be to make him walk, on one of the hottest days of the year, from his west end home to the downtown market. We're no stranger to long walks. Several years ago, we walked across Los Angeles for 10 hours.

Paul figured this birthday walk would be fitting and a great tribute to our youth. Paul planned a party for Byron at 7:30 pm at Tucker's Marketplace buffet in the market. We would walk downtown and, after a tiring ordeal, rejoice with a delicious meal.

On that fateful Thursday, Paul met Byron at his house at 3 pm. Byron was greeted with an entire bottle of water dumped on him by Paul after he chased a screaming Byron around the lawn.

The two idiots (us) took off on our walking adventure. With backpacks, bottled water, apples, other kosher food from Byron's place and a lack of brains, we ventured down Centrepoinete Drive. A few minutes after turning right on Baseline, Paul thought it would be funny to try to pull Byron's pants down as heavy traffic drove by.

In our mid-twenties, we started wrestling. As we were about to fall onto the pavement clutching onto each other for dear life, a black SUV swooped beside us and stopped in the middle of the road!

Who was this? Was this a gang drive-by shooting? Were the Knish boys going to get mugged? The window slowly rolled down and it was worse ... It was the Jewish ambassador to Centrepoinete, Byron's mother! She was wondering what the hell we were doing on a Thursday afternoon

rolling around the sidewalk of a busy intersection in each other's arms.

Carol Pascoe took one look at us, shook her head and sped away to Loblaws. We knew what she was thinking. These guys are never getting married to a girl!

For some weird reason, we must have passed six couches out as garbage all along Woodroffe. We took a quick nap and continued.

After about an hour, we fellers were starting to feel nauseated and exhausted from the heat. Paul wanted to take the Queensway, but Byron told him it's illegal and, worse, they might get hit by a car. Because we could soon run out of column ideas, we considered this. While it would be a great story, we decided against it.

The walk then started to get very Jewish. Byron complained his hand had become numb and he couldn't feel any sensation when he touched it. According to Paul, this is a common complaint from the girls Byron dates.

Paul examined Byron's hand and told him to walk it off; he would be fine. We were starting to feel our ages like a couple of old cockers. However, in the great tradition of our people, we continued our journey.

At the Woodroffe/Carling intersection we turned right. The nicest day of the year and we were walking along Carling Avenue.

It was time for a navigation decision. Should we take the Parkway or what Byron called a shortcut? Walking along the river would have been the choice two people with brains and taste would have chosen as it would have provided the perfect scenery for the beautiful day.

Instead, Byron advised Paul his shortcut was better. We walked all the way down Carling, the stench of toxic fumes mixing with heat could have killed us. Byron also figured this route had less chance we'd get lost.

It was nearing 5:30 pm and we had finally made it to the Glebe. At the Carling/Bank intersection, we turned left on Bank and headed towards Laurier.

We were sweaty, tired and gross. This is how Byron always pictured his 26th birthday: walking for absolutely no reason. We ventured on, like two wounded soldiers. Paul seriously thought about jumping on a bus and leaving Byron behind, but they were so close!



## Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

Around my third birthday and before we moved to our own house, I was sleeping in my great aunt's attic on a mattress with my mother. I woke up hot and sweaty and looked out the window at the moon. The main thing is my mother rubbed my tummy and I fell back asleep. Who gets that kind of service today? Besides, I have air conditioning.

But the best thing I remember is being swung by my parents, one holding each hand as we walked. I have done the same thing with my own children and with my grandson. It feels just like flying.

So a toddler is the in-between, with complete inebriate darkness at one end and memories coming into the light and words at the other, a sort of angel who has to learn how to walk on the earth and, at the same time, a crawling creature who has to stand upright. Now, if I could just get them to go to the bathroom by walking them around the block, I would buy one tomorrow.



Paul Telner



Byron Pascoe

## Have a Knish

Then we saw a hooker walking down Bank Street. Paul would have treated Byron for some birthday fun, but we didn't know if she took the entertainment card.

We turned right on Laurier and shortly thereafter with the Parliament buildings in sight, we knew we had made it. We walked down Sparks Street and gave each other a big hug. We walked into the Château Laurier and used the washroom to clean up (if you use the hotel lobby bathrooms, avoid stalls 1 and 3).

At 7 pm we had reached our final destination. We were actually early for the dinner. What a trip.

The whole way down, we thought about the delicious brownies, ice cream sundae bar and roast beef. We immediately told the nice hostess we walked all the way from the west end for them. She didn't seem all that impressed, which made us think maybe our journey was more idiotic than anything else.

We sat down, ordered a delicious Kool Aid slushy and had a fantastic meal. However, the last thing we needed was a buffet as we were just too tired to get up.

Twenty-six years of life, and we're as dumb as we were a decade ago. We may be older, but we can both honestly say, that was one of the most fun days we've ever had.

In a way, we did our own Walkathon, except absolutely no one joined us for this cause!

Have a Knish!

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Sunday, June 24  
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Jun 26	8:37 pm
Jul 6	8:36 pm
Jul 13	8:32 pm
Jul 20	8:26 pm

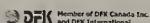
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# Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

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Rona Blanck

Morris Browns

Shifra Gamarnik

Thea Ginsburg

Aron Avigdor Greenspan, Toronto  
(Father of Leah Miller)

Irving Kaplan, Montreal  
(husband of Sadie née Kronick,  
and father of Audrey Kaplan)

Nathan Segall

Leah Toronto

May their memory  
be a blessing always.

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For a listing in this column, please call Bev Glube, 613-798-4696, ext. 274.

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# BULLETIN DEADLINES

JULY 4 FOR JULY 23

AUGUST 1 FOR AUGUST 20

AUGUST 10 FOR SEPTEMBER 3 \*

\* Community-wide issue (subject to change)

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